

Stony Brook University
University Senate
Campus Environment Committee
September 24, 2007
VP Administration Conference Room
1:00 – 2:30 pm

Attending: Gil Hanson, Chair; Ramona Walls, Recording Secretary; Robert Aller, Malcolm Bowman, Bill Dethlefs, Catherine Horgan, Mary Hotaling, Nick Koridis, John Murray, John Robinson, Fred Walter, Kathleen Weber.

Excused: Wendy Fidao, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Kristen Nyitray, Paul Siegel, Dorothy Shannon Schiff, Ana Topolovec, Catherine Vetter and Muriel Weyl.

Staff: Barbara Chernow, Amy Provenzano

Guest: Jennifer Chang (Environmental Club)

I. Introductions – G. Hanson

Introductions were made of all attendees. Election of new officers was postponed until later in the meeting, to wait until all voting members were present.

II. Review of the Minutes – R. Walls

Several corrections were made to the August minutes. R. Walls will send out final version after receiving corrections from A. Provenzano

III. Status Reports

1. Sustainability Task Force – A. Provenzano

-First meeting of the semester this week.

-Draft of University 5 year plan is out for review now. Called attention to Item 11: support sustainability through a green-campus initiative.

-Procurement has a request for potential use of 100% recycled paper. Under the current Staples contract, the price of recycled paper is almost double non-recycle, so they are looking for a separate supply contract.

-Web group for sustainable dining to meet on Nov. 14 from 1 – 2:30

-President Kenny signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment (Part of AASHE, at AASHE.org) on Friday, so we are now charter members. The agreement pushes member to agree reduce GH gas emissions to zero. Requires that member develop a long term action plan for becoming carbon neutral within 2 years, plus initiate at least two concrete actions. The sustainability task force will review the list of actions and see which are the most realistic and/or desirable. B. Chernow said they will go to the cabinet to get policies implemented, and asked this committee to provide support. M. Bowman motioned that we thank A. Provenzano, B. Chernow and Dr. Kenny for bringing this agreement about. All agreed.

2. Procedure:

-F. Walter proposed that we have a power point slide for the agenda, so we don't have to print it.

-F. Walter suggested that at large members have another name, since they can't vote. We agreed that ?? would be a better title. R. Aller suggested announcing vacancies in the senate to try to get representatives from Fine Arts. G. Hanson suggested approaching people we know to recruit. We also need to approach the USG for new undergrad members.

3. Sewage treatment facilities – B. Chernow

- B. Chernow and A. Provenzano met with representatives of the NYDEC and Suffolk County DPW. They are no longer planning to build recharge beds on campus. DPW will recharge in their existing basin in the north of campus for the short term, then look at their properties if they need recharge sites in the future. G. Hanson was very helpful in providing scientific information at these meetings.

4. Environmental Master Plan – B. Chernow

-B.B.B. and Andropogon have met and will soon have sketches for Southampton and something to show us, but it is going slower than expected.

-CEWIT construction is underway and 2nd building is starting – going for LEAD platinum status. There is no funding for other buildings in the Research Park yet.

-The administration is still waiting on an environmental master plan for this campus. There are no plans for additional buildings except in-fill at housing quads, Building I and the building in place of Roosevelt.

-Addition to the math tower. There were originally supposed to be two towers, but only one got built. Jim Simons has donated money for a new addition.

-The state gave 19 million for the new Rec Center, which covers about half of what it will cost. Administration is lobbying for more money. It does not include a pool, but will connect to the existing pool. R. Aller asked if there was a possibility to plan it so that a new pool could be an extension.

-The capital plan has not allowed for new buildings in the past few years. Right now, all spending is linked to critical maintenance.

-M. Bowman asked about plans for the Union Building. B. Chernow said they are trying to rehabilitate it. Five new food vendors are moving in this year.

-B. Dethlefs asked if the current construction entrance for the Research Park will be the permanent entrance (Yes) and if there is still a plan for road through Clara's woods (No).

-There is now a crossing guard on Toll Dr. from 12-4PM. B. Chernow suggested closing Toll Rd., but The Faculty Senate did not like the idea. Member of the committee still agree that it is a good idea.

-M. Bowman suggested building a roundabout near Roosevelt Quad. Many people felt this was a problem because of all the pedestrians. R. Aller suggested a pedestrian overpass. B. Chernow and others were concerned that students would not use it. F. Walter suggested a traffic light.

-M. Bowman discussed the Stony Brook Green Belt idea being advocated by Steve Engelbright. At this point it is a concept, not a legal obligation; a combination of public and private land.

5. Recycling – B. Chernow and A. Provenzano

There is a problem throughout the Administration Building with fruit flies and other small flies that breed in the recycling bins. The problem is worst now because of the season. The recycled

recyclers are problematic people don't rinse containers. They are looking at putting a lid. R. Walls said that a lid probably wouldn't work because flies can still get in and out. They are looking at emptying the containers more frequently and possibly cleaning them more often.

6. Safety committee

-M. Hotaling still has not had contact. A. Provenzano found out that George Meyer is no longer involved. Marge Rothwell is the president's representative. There was a report for 2005-2006. Rothwell (?) is meeting with A. Provenzano tomorrow to revamp the membership list and try to get the committee restarted.

IV. Elections

G. Hanson reviewed the list of voting members, agreed to serve as chair for the coming year. R. Walls volunteered to serve as vice-chair, and N. Koridis agreed to serve as recording secretary. All positions were approved by unanimous consent.

V. New Business

1. Items for concern for the coming year – G. Hanson

-G. Hanson reviewed ideas from the last meeting: parking and transportation, the university as a leader in developing a regional master plan. R. Walls read an email from M. LaCorte, asking that this committee work with the office of environmental stewardship to insure that the Presidents' assertions of sustainability for Southampton and Research Park become reality.

-The Parking and Transportation Subcommittee will have their first meeting next week. Suffolk County is replanning their bus routes. We should keep in contact with them. M. Bowman suggested looking at free public transportation as an alternative. B. Chernow would like the subcommittee to work on parking fees. Current fees do not cover the cost of operations of garages. She also suggested inviting Jim O'Conner to the subcommittee meeting. R. Aller suggested talking to other agencies outside SUNY, like the governor's office, to look for funds for parking garages. A. Provenzano and B. Chernow will meet with the executive director of DASNY (the dormitory authority) and ask them about funding for garages. Others suggested applying for an environmental grant for parking and giving carpoolers premium locations. B. Dethlefs suggested combined classroom/parking or dormitory/parking buildings, because as long as a parking structure is not built on current open lots, we won't have a problem with the union contract. R. Aller was concerned about security issues of having parking in other buildings.

-M. Bowman suggested that this committee work on stewardships of natural areas on campus.

-J. Robinson would to see the university's role as a leader in developing a regional master plan linked to a campus environmental master plan. Stony Brook is a big entity, so it has a big impact, but also a lot of clout. The value of developing a plan includes good community relationships and public relations for the university. M. Bowman mentioned the Town of Brookhaven open space proposition that is on this year's ballot and may be relevant.

-R. Aller suggested that we comment to president on item 5 of the Five-Year Plan, that perhaps it should be more inclusive. M. Bowman spoke to SUNY trustee Mike Russell to encourage the chancellors at all campus's to undertake environmental master plans. J. Robinson talked about forum based planning as a way to involve the community in defining a vision for what they

would like to be 10, 30 or 50 years in the future. The plan can then be referred to as individual decisions are made. K. Weber mentioned Vision Long Island of Huntington, a company working with communities to help them develop vision statements.

-The committee agree that we need to comment on the Five-Year Plan. J. Robinson will write something, and send out for comment via email. Comments must be submitted by October 1st.

-F. Walter and G. Hanson said that sidewalks and bike paths could be part of parking and transportation subcommittee. We decided to leave it as a separate item.

-N. Koridis brought up the Rails to Trails initiative. They are working on a bike path from Setauket to Port Jeff Station. It is planning and bids are out. F. Walter said that it needs to hook up with bike paths on campus.

-K. Weber asked about lighted arrows on Nicols Rd. at the new intersection at the north entrance. There are left turn arrows for north/south traffic, but there need to be arrows for east/west traffic. B. Dethlefs suggested contacting representative Vivian Fisher, who championed the reconstruction of the intersection.

-The committee agree that M. Bowman, R. Aller and M. LaCorte should remain involved in our interest in stewardship of natural areas.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

1. Smoking policy subcommittee – B. Dethlefs.

The committee met last week. It was designed to look at coalition building, education and awareness. Members of east campus are advocating for smoke free campus. The committee looked what all could agree on and came up with several basic agreements. They came up with a list of recommendations. Students recommended banning smoking at all times on the academic mall. There need to be clear delineations of no smoking perimeters around buildings (15, 20, 50 ft).

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Oct. 18th at 1:00PM in the VP Administration Conference Room.

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2007/2008

Charge: It shall examine all aspects of the campus environment, including but not limited to safety, security, facilities planning, state of facilities, and general appearance of the campus. It will consult with and advise the Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services.

Chair: Gilbert N. Hanson, Vice Chair: Ramona Walls, Recording Secretary: Nick Koridis

Humanities and Fine Arts:

Vacant			
Vacant			

Social and Behavioral Sciences:

John Robinson	Psychology-2-7832	Robinson@psych1.psy.sunysb.edu	9/08
Vacant			

Natural Sciences:

Gil Hanson	Geosciences, 2-8210	GHanson@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	9/08
Frederick Walter	Physics, 2-8232	fwalter@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	9/09

Library:

Kristen Nyitray	Library, 2-7119	KNyitray@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	9/08
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College of Engineering:

John Murray	Electrical Engineering, 2-8413	JMurray@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	9/07
Paul Siegel	Tech. & Society, 2-8716	psiegel@sunysb.edu	9/08

Health Sciences Center:

Mary Hotaling	SHTM, 4-3223	MHotaling@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	9/08
Catherine Vetter	SHTM, 4-6158	CVetter@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	9/09

Professionals:

Nick Koridis			9/09
Vacant			

Graduate Student:

Ramona Walls	Ecology and Evolution	rwalls@life.bio.sunysb.edu	9/08
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Undergraduate Students:

Vacant			
Vacant			

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
2007/2008

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Catherine Horgan, SHTM, chorgan@notes.cc.sunysb.edu, 4-2251

Malcolm Bowman, Marine Sciences, mbowman@notes.cc.sunysb.edu, 2-8669

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Ana Topolovec, campus architect, atopolovec@notes.cc.sunysb.edu, 4-1812

Bill Dethlefs, HSC Alumni Relations, wdethlefs@notes.cc.sunysb.edu, 4-8305

Ex officio members: Gary Kaczmarczyk, Director of Environmental Health & Safety

Administrative Contact: Barbara Chernow, AVP Facilities and Services

Facilities and Services Supporting Staff: Amy Provenzano, Office of Sustainability