

Stony Brook University
University Senate
Campus Environment Committee
October 16, 2006
V.P. Administration Conference Room,
221 Administration Bldg.
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Attending: Gil Hanson, Chair; Ramona Walls, Recording Secretary ; Bob Aller, Malcolm Bowman, Ketty Dautruche, Wendy Fidaio, Gary Kaczmarczyk, John Murray, Larry Swanson, Fred Walter

Excused: Bill Dethlefs, Catherine Horgan, Mary Hotaling, Matthew Maiorella, Mary Woodward, John Robinson, Dorothy Shannon Schiff, and Muriel Weyl, Kristen Nyitray, Paul Siegel, Catherine Vetter, and Kathleen Weber.

Staff: John Fogarty, Director of Capital Planning, Terrance Harrigan

Minutes

I. Introductions – Gil Hanson

Introductions were made of all attendees. New members Ketty Dautruche (undergraduate) and Fred Walter (Physics & Astronomy), and guests Wendy Fidaio (Friends of Flax Pond) and Larry Swanson (MSRC) were welcomed.

II. Review of the Minutes – Gil Hanson

The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Status Report

a. Environmental Master Plan – B. Chernow

Discussion was deferred, because Barbara Chernow was absent

b. Old Kings Highway Historical Marker – J. Fogarty

We are still waiting for a response from Lance Malamo, a local historian.

c. Smoking Ban Proposal – G. Hanson

- See Attachment A, proposal submitted to the University Senate on May 1, 2006

-Ketty Dautruche presented the Undergraduate Student Government's (USG) position on the proposed ban. USG is opposed to a total ban, primarily because many students live on campus and have no option to leave campus to smoke.

- Ramona Walls presented a counter-resolution adopted by the Graduate Student Organization (GSO). See Attachment B, "Resolution on policies related to smoking." GSO opposes a total ban on smoking, and instead

recommends better education and enforcement of current regulations, including fines for smoking within 15 feet of buildings and for moving ashtrays closer to buildings.

- Gil Hanson presented a request by the University Senate Executive Committee (USEC) for the CEC to create a smoking policy subcommittee. Ramona Walls made a motion to create a sub-committee, seconded by Fred Walter.
 - Bob Aller pointed out that the GSO resolution was very similar to the original proposal by the CEC, which was rejected by the USEC.
 - Gary Kasmarczyk, who was on the original committee that wrote the current smoking policy, pointed out that the effectiveness of any policy depends on its enforceability. There was a general discussion as to whether or not a total smoking ban was enforceable, and to what extent the University Police could enforce any sort of smoking policy.
 - Voting members present agreed to form the subcommittee, because there were still a number of questions about smoking policy that needed to be answered in order to make an informed recommendation to the USEC.
 - The subcommittee will be chaired by Bill Dethlefs. They will determine their own schedule and time frame, then report to the CEC and USEC. Their mission will be: to develop an educational/promotional campaign for this proposal, a draft of what a comprehensive smoking cessation program might include, and a draft university policy statement. This subcommittee can include any or all of the various stakeholders on and off campus.
- d. Brookhaven Town Kettle Hole Park – G. Hanson
Water is running into the kettle hole from hospital loop road. Barbara Chernow was to meet with Chris Brennon of the hospital construction office. Deferred discussion because she was not present.

IV. New Business

- a. Bus route/stops on campus/SAC to South P lot – M. Bowman
- The new express bus route between the South P lot and the SAC had no intermediate stops. Terrance Harrigan has added a new stop to the route near the Tabler Quad.
 - Ketty Dautruche enquired about whether or not loop bus schedules were timed to the LIRR, because students often wait long periods for a bus after a train has arrived. Terrance Harrigan said that the buses were scheduled to meet the trains, but sometimes trains are very late, so buses cannot wait until the train arrives.
- b. Review committee charge from the University Senate – M. Bowman
- Malcolm Bowman pointed out that original charge is about 15 years old, and doesn't reflect much of what the CEC deals with. Since the committee was formed, the number of students and vehicles has increased dramatically. He submitted a suggestion for new wording of the statement. See attachment C.

- Wendy Fidao pointed out that the current statement has no mention of conservation, which has become an important role of the CEC.
- There was discussion of the need to include all University properties in our mission statement, including the Southhampton Campus and Flowerfields Property (now called the Stony Brook Research and Development Campus).
- Fred Walter proposed adding the words “environmental planning” and “conservation” to original statement
- John Murray led a general discussion of what was meant by “security,” and whether or not the CEC should be involved in campus security.
- It was agreed that Malcolm Bowman would re-write the new mission statement to make it more succinct, and forward it to the committee for discussion before the next meeting.

V. Subcommittee Reports

- a. There were no subcommittee reports

VI. Other

- a. Larry Swanson made a presentation on water recycling on campus
 - The University’s current sewage treatment plant is has a capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day and provides tertiary treatment (removes nitrogen). Current use is about 1.7 million gallons per day, but there are plans to expand the plant in anticipation of growth on campus. The University should consider re-use of treated water. Suffolk County may be willing to share in cost of infrastructure. There may be issues with medical waste contamination in the water. He does not recommend using treated water on athletic fields.
 - John Fogarty was present at the meeting between Suffolk County Water Authority and the University. The county is under a mandate to reduce the quantity of nitrogen discharged into Port Jefferson Harbor to below current levels. In order to do that (regardless of any growth to the system), the Sewage Treatment Plant has to reduce the quantity of water it currently discharges into the harbor. The county has suggested construction of recharge basins that allow a portion of the plant’s treated water to percolate into the soil. Use of water to irrigate ornamental plants on campus may not be feasible, because plantings are generally small, isolated, and far from the sewage treatment plant.
 - John Fogarty mentioned that the university was asked to consider the use of wastewater by the co-generation plant, but that may not be feasible because it is run by a private company that is under bankruptcy. The cogeneration plant produces steam that is used to heat the University’s underground high temperature hot-water system. This system is currently very leaky, and the University is considering a major expenditure to repair/replace it to reduce the amount of makeup water used in its system. Gil Hanson said that the co-generation plant uses a lot of water for reducing NO_x and SO₂ concentrations in its stacks, and that treated wastewater may be appropriate for that use.

- Malcolm Bowman asked about the plans to build retention basins for excess water, and if it would be possible to make them into someplace aesthetically pleasing, rather than just large, muddy holes in the ground. There was a general concern about the use of retention basins, because it is not known if they reduce nitrogen content in the water. If not, then the addition of nitrogen to Port Jefferson Harbor is only being delayed, as ground water eventually finds its way into the harbor.
 - Ramona Walls brought up the idea of water waste on campus, including leaking faucets, and asked if there could be a way to centralize reporting of leaks. Gary Kasmarczyk mentioned that reduction of water waste was part of the original Prometheus Report (an initiative by former President Marburger on the preservation and conservation of sensitive resources on campus), and that New York City's efforts to repair leaks had saved millions of gallons of water.
 - Malcolm Bowman asked what the plans are for wastewater in the Flowerfields property. John Fogarty said that it is not possible to connect to the current sewage treatment plant unless it is expanded. Currently all wastewater on Flowerfields will be treated on site and put into leaching fields under the parking lots. Storm water runoff will go into dry wells for infiltration.
- b. Undergraduate student club looking for projects – John Fogarty
- Students have approached John Fogarty. They would like to write a grant proposal to get funds to do an environmentally oriented project on campus. He asked for suggestions.
 - Malcolm Bowman suggested monitoring of the recharge basin near the main entrance.
 - Fred Walter suggested estimating water use by automatic and traditional faucets on campus. John Fogarty mentioned that the use of automatic faucets saves water primarily because the lack of moving parts means less breakage and therefore fewer leaks.
 - Ramona Walls suggested writing a grant to get money for a bike path/sidewalk on the west campus.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 13, 2006, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM, in 221 Administration conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.

Attachment A

Stony Brook University

[The following proposal was presented to the University Senate on May 1, 2006 for formal review.]

Recommendation to the University Senate Executive Committee on a campus no-smoking policy, as initiated by the Campus Environment Committee, on April 28, 2006

In response to the request by the Executive Committee of the University Senate to reconsider previous recommendations made regarding this policy, the following recommendations are made:

Effective fall 2006 smoking will be limited only to pre-designated areas on campus. These areas are yet to be determined, but will allow for existing limitations as noted for dormitories, the hospital, and the Long Island Veterans home. In a time frame not to exceed three years a total ban on smoking is to be implemented campus-wide. This ban will follow a policy recently implemented by SUNY Upstate Medical University that affects all faculty, staff, students, patients, and visitors.

Justification: A ban on all smoking removes two problems with the existing policy; the varied size of the non-smoking radius at campus entrances (15 feet versus 50 feet), and the problems associated with smoking-related litter. It also addresses the role that the university plays as both a health care provider and major employer with an obligation to help contain both the costs of providing quality health care and negotiating lower health insurance premiums for faculty, staff, and students, along with the development of wellness programs. The continuing tolerance of any smoking behaviors on campus can no longer be justified.

Attachment B
Graduate Student Organization
Stony Brook University

Resolution on policies related to smoking

October 10, 2006

Whereas, some students, faculty, and staff have been grieved by both the behavior of smokers and the active presence of smoking on campus of the State University of New York and Stony Brook; and

Whereas, the rules regarding smoking that currently exist at the SUNY at Stony Brook campus are often unknown to most students, faculty, and staff that smoke, and hence their behavior does not reflect a disregard for such rules but, instead, an ignorance of them; therefore be it

Resolved, that in order to reduce the presence of second-hand smoking on the SUNY at Stony Brook campus, to educate students, faculty, and staff of the existing rules, and to implement the existing policies, the Graduate Student Organization endorses the following policies and projects:

1. The installation of signage indicating that smoking is not allowed within fifteen (15) feet of the building doorways; these signs will also indicate fines for littering since cigarette butts are heretofore considered litter;
2. Fines for the relocation of cigarette disposal trays/units directly on such units; signs on the same cigarette disposal trays/units informing smokers of the consequences of relocating the disposal units;
3. More initiative to educate the population to the existing rules;
4. Initiation of the tobacco cessation programs, available for free to students, faculty, and staff;
5. The continued ban on the sale of all tobacco products on campus;
6. Enforcement by the University Police of violation of said rules after the signage and education efforts have been completed; and further be it

Resolved, that twelve (12) months after the complete implementation of the above, the documented evidence of satisfaction and dissatisfaction of students, faculty, and staff should be obtained and the results of these policies will be assessed so as to properly gauge the situation of smoking on campus; and if the results show that the majority of students, faculty, and staff are dissatisfied with the outcome of implementing the fifteen (15) feet policy, then a fifty (50) feet policy should be considered before the introduction of a total smoking ban.

Andrei Antonenko, President _____

Alton Frabetti, Vice-President _____

Louis Edgar Esparza, Secretary _____

Ryan Soule, Treasurer _____

Attachment C

Stony Brook University
University Senate
Campus Environment Committee
September 18, 2006

Proposed Change to the University Senate Committee Charge

Proposed text:

It shall examine all aspects of campus environments, including all of Stony Brook University's physical assets, its branch campuses, and all future acquisitions. It includes, but is not limited to, environmental conservation, protection and enhancement of natural areas, including woodlands, lakes, streams, historic trails and biological preserves; enhancement of safety of pedestrians and cyclists, environmental and public health concerns, traffic congestion and parking problems, promotion of efficient public transportation; security issues, facilities planning, state of facilities; energy conservation, recycling, waste management and the general appearance of the campuses. It will consult with and advise the Vice President for Administration, the Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services and their staff.

Existing Text:

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.

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
2006/2007

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: Mary Woodward, Recording Secretary: Ramona Walls

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:

William Dethlefs	HSC Alumni Relations, 4-8305	wdethlefs@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	9/07
Mary Woodward	Procurement, 2-9849	MWoodward@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	9/07

Graduate Student:

Romona Walls		rwalls@life.bio.sunysb.edu	9/07
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Undergraduate Students:

Ketty Dautruche		ketty87@aol.com	9/07
Matthew Maiorella		mmaiorel@ic.sunysb.edu	9/07

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
2006/2007

At-Large Members:

Dorothy Shannon Schiff dshannon@ic.sunysb.edu,

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

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

Muriel Weyl, (retired faculty), murielweyl@yahoo.com

Bob Aller, MSRC, raller@notes.cc.sunysb.edu, 2-8746

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

Administrative Contact:

Barbara Chernow, AVP Facilities and Services & Richard Mann, VP Administration

Facilities and Services Supporting Staff: John Fogarty and Terence Harrigan