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Please respond to
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To "Ramona Walls" <rwalls@life.bio.sunysb.edu>

cc ghanson@notes.cc.sunysb.edu,
blane@notes.cc.sunysb.edu,
aprovenz@notes.cc.sunysb.edu,

bcc

Subject Re: Charge

Ramona et al:

The reason I bring these issues up is that I believe there are major environmental crises looming on our campus. In my opinion the property is reaching its limit as to how much the ground can absorb precipitation (we cannot funnel runoff into the sewer system, which after treatment, flows into PJ Harbor).

The recharge basins near the train station burst some 15 years ago and flooded Hwy 25A, sending huge amounts of water into the Village. Fortunately, no one was drowned, but a train wreck was averted when someone stopped the eastbound train at St James. In September 2005, the adjacent Mann Canyon (located next to the train tracks) filled to its brim with water, and according to Richard Mann, came within 6" of overflowing. Consequentially it was drained at great expense and is currently not being used.

Campus growth means more students, more faculty, more staff, more cars, more parking needs, more buildings, more roads and paved areas, all with consequences for land use and runoff management.

Sewage disposal is another big headache. This could be covered under "waste management" although that term is sometimes restricted to solid waste, radioactive waste, but not sewage. We could change the descriptor to "water and waste management".

Climate neutrality. I agree this could be covered under "conservation", although the implications of the Presidents' Climate Commitment are profound. For example, every tree, every photosynthetic natural area and every manicured lawn becomes a key component in trying to balance the campus carbon budget. It puts conservation in a whole new light; from just protecting pretty areas, to fighting climate change by CO2 sequestration.

We live in interesting times!

Malcolm.

On Nov 27, 2007 9:14 AM, Ramona Walls <rwalls@life.bio.sunysb.edu> wrote:

I think that we need to exercise some restraint in what we include in the charge. If we specify every task we plan to cover, we run the risk of being too specific. This then would allow future committees to say they can't deal with an issue because it is not included in the charge. I do think it is important that we expand our charge to include more of the

tasks we actually deal with, but it is also important that the charge be general enough to allow the flexibility to address future, unpredictable problems. We have already proposed that we deal with conservation of natural areas, energy efficiency and waste management, which cover the three topics Malcolm proposes (sewage treatment and disposal, runoff management, and climate neutrality).

Since our proposed charge does cover those three topics, we are free to address them at future meetings.

Ramona

> Gil:

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> Since we drafted the new CEC (soon to be UEC) charge, new challenges
> have appeared:

>

> 1. Sewage treatment and disposal. Suffolk County always wants us to
> reduce nitrogen loading from sewage discharges into Port Jefferson
> Harbor. How to effectively manage sewage wastes from an ever expanding
> university community?

> 2. Runoff management. We have to manage all storm water runoff within
> the perimeters of our various properties. More students, faculty and
> staff means more parking lots, more buildings, less natural vegetation
> to absorb runoff, with threats of catastrophic failure of recharge
> basins.

> 3. Climate neutrality. President Kenny recently signed the American
> College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment

> < www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org >. This commits us to:

>

> i) initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve
> climate neutrality as soon as possible;
> ii) initiate two or more tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases; and
> iii) make the action plan, inventory and periodic progress public.

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> These are profound and enduring challenges, which if taken seriously
> will commit us to many changes in the way we use energy, conserve
> natural areas and green space (CO2 abatement), commute, recycle, treat
> wastes, develop renewable energy sources, etc. If taken seriously,
> everything we do will have to change.

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> I believe we should weave the three issues listed above into the
> charge before submission to the Senate Executive Committee.

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> Malcolm.

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> On Nov 26, 2007 3:35 PM, <ghanson@notes.cc.sunysb.edu> wrote:
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>> Bernie,
>> The following is the new charge and name change for the Campus
>> Environment
>> Committee. How do we go about getting it adopted?
>> Gil
>>
>> We recommend that the "Campus Environment Committee" should be re-named
>> the
>> "University Environment Committee." The latest revision of our charge is
>> Recommended University Environment Committee Charge:
>> This committee shall examine all aspects of the university environment,
>> including but not limited to conservation of natural areas, ecological
>> preserves, and historical landmarks, transportation and parking issues,
>> infrastructure, facilities planning, human health issues, safety and
>> security, energy efficiency, recycling and waste management, and general
>> appearance of the University. This committee will consult with and
>> advise
>> the Vice-president for Facilities and Services.
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