

Social Concerns Committee
Minutes – Monday, February 05, 2007

In attendance:

Voting: Alton Frabetti, Ramona Walls, Leone Brown, Scott Zotto

Non-voting: Dante Dilanni, Dan Woulfin, Daniel Brown (Undergraduate), Tino Evangelo (Undergraduate)

Old Business

Alton presented his ideas for a bike path via underneath the hospital. Ramona mentioned the importance of uniting the path with the actual city bike path. Dante mentioned the need of crosswalks in dangerous areas.

Alton updated the committee about his correspondence with Jim O'Connor in regards to the Chapin P Lot route as well as the need for safety seats. He had not heard from O'Connor lately, but had emailed him fairly recently.

Alton sent a thank you letter to Barbara Chernow about the newly constructed bike route to South Campus from Chapin. Following this, he will hopefully meet with her to discuss pedestrian safety and the lack of lighting over crosswalks.

Alton updated the committee about Freewheel. Scott discussed ideas for a critical mass for bicycles, as they do in the city. Leone informed him of the arrests of people who have participated in such activities. All agreed to have an event at Earthstock to promote bicycle use and awareness on campus. Alton suggested that Freewheel or some other campus bicycle club could maintain the bike paths in small ways, such as enhancing safety and clearing debris/branches.

Dante and Ramona suggested positive submittals from students, such as beauty photos of the campus. Alton suggested that this might be done through SB GradMag.

The quality of life survey was submitted to Rich Laffers but not put on line. Dan suggested that Alton open a Flashlight account and do it himself. The administration pays for Flashlight.

The Blog is progressing. Alton updated the committee about this and his meetings with George Meyers and Dean Stein.

The Environmental club (Tino and Dan Brown) presented its campaign to reduce paper on campus. Each year the Sync sites generate 10 million sheets of paper. From Sept 3 to November 25 four million sheets were generated, of which 682,000 sheets were useless cover sheets.

They are campaigning for double-sided printing as the default at all sync sites; not all printers can print double-sided and hence need new rollers to update them. The toner is more expensive for double-sided printing. Dante suggested increasing awareness of double sided printing in the computer labs.

The committee discussed how it could support this campaign. It raised questions as to whether faculty accepted double-sided printing.

All agreed to raise awareness, and that this would be the first goal. The Environmental Club has an account on Facebook (search for “double-sided printing”). They have been getting many clubs to join them in their efforts.

Ramona noted that Barbara Chernow is in complete support of this change, so there is no need to pressure the administration. What is needed is a change of culture on campus.

Articles have been written for Press and Statesman; Alton asked that one be also written for the SBGradMag.

Alton suggested a desktop/screensaver for sync site computers that says not to use too much paper.

There is a need to get grad students who teach to require less printing.

Ramona suggested keeping readings digital and using digital editing tools to make notes.

There will be a meeting in Hendricks Lounge at 8:30 pm of the Environmental Club;

Dante may attend.

Alton asked someone from the Environmental Club to address the GSO Senate.

A final reminder to have GSO meetings paperless.

The meeting was then adjourned.