

Plant Utilization and Planning (PUP) Committee Meeting minutes

2-2-2011

Attending: Nancy Baker, Jeanine Buchanich, Dave DeJong, Buck Favorini, Irene Frieze, Debra Fyock, Kristin Gusten, Susanna Leers, Dan Marcinko, J. P. Matychak, Paul Munro, Mike Ramsey, Eli Shorak, John Wilds, Laura Zullo

1. Minutes from 20 October 2010 meeting were approved (by acclimation).
2. Members of the committee and guests introduced themselves. **Kristin Gusten** is the new liaison with the Provost's office (replacing **Patti Irrgang**).
3. **J. P. Matychak**, SAC representative, expressed some concerns regarding pedestrian safety on campus. He focused on two specific locations:
 - a. **The intersection of 5th and Bigelow**, where he said he personally witnessed a vehicle strike a pedestrian crossing the street. **Mr. Matychak** suggested that a 4-way walk signal be installed. **John Wilds** pointed out that the university has asked the city for 4-way walks at this intersection and others (eg 5th and Bellefield), and that the city has been opposed to this solution due to the synchronized sequencing of the 5th Ave signals, which they contend are important to facilitate traffic flow.
 - b. **The pedestrian crosswalk across Bigelow between 5th and Forbes.** **Mr. Matychak** noted that visibility at night on this crosswalk is very poor and suggested that lighting could be provided by the University.

In response to these concerns and to address any other traffic-related concerns, **John Wilds** said he would invite **Amanda Broadwater**, city traffic engineer to a meeting in the near future.

4. Book Center Discussion

The book center renovation is planned to take place between Jan 2012 and Aug 2012 (between the beginning of the Spring and Fall terms). The space may be expanded into the courtyard area. If possible, they would like a design that facilitates public access to the bookstore.

The medical bookstore, which is now a separate facility, will be included in the new space. The new bookstore will include an Espresso machine for printing books on demand,

They have solicited suggestions from students and received about 1000 responses including the introduction of a computer and high tech aisle. Eli would like input from the faculty and requested that PUP assist in acquiring

input.

There was some open discussion among the committee. Suggestions aired at the meeting included:

- that the design include some large open space -- an atrium layout if space allows (**P. Munro**)
- that there be space for book readings and book signings, since the current space is not at all conducive to such events (**B. Favorini**).
- There should be a space for software purchase, with some time periods designated for technical staff to be present to discuss computer software and hardware.

5. Update on changes and reductions in PAT service and discussion.

Smart cards will soon be introduced which should increase efficiency in PAT service and also reduce fraudulent use of student IDs from CMU and Pitt

There may be an increase in state subsidy of PAT pending reconsideration of the proposal to collect tolls on I-80.

Irene Frieze stated that there had been discussion about PAT service reductions and that faculty had expressed concern regarding transportation. She asked whether Pitt could provide increased shuttle service to augment PAT services. **Eli Shorak** responded that any new routes or changes, such as additional stops, were subject to approval from PAT. He added that PAT generally does not approve services that duplicate their own routes – as a result routes running N/S are more likely to receive a positive response.

The basic problem is a lack of funding for PAT. Additional funds are needed from the state of Pennsylvania. We need to express our concerns to the State legislators.

6. Update on Building renovations

1. Athletic Fields. **Eli Shorak** described the new athletic field beside Trees Hall and described its potential impact on the neighborhood, including possible new housing development.

2. New Dormitory. He also described the new Freshman dormitory planned on 5th and University Place. The dorm will accommodate about 500 students – the design is a 12 story building with the lower 2 floors housing retail space. The impact on pedestrian traffic on 5th Ave will be significant.

3. Other campus projects. **Laura Zullo** described several ongoing developments:

- GSPH renovation – estimated completion in 2013
- Chevron addition – estimated completion early summer 2011
- Salk Hall – just began 2 year renovation
- Langley/Crawford – Increased biosafety to levels 2 and 3
- Concordia Club adding elevator and stair tower (ADA) – expect late March completion
- Johnstown campus wellness center – 38000 sq ft

7. The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting (March) will be scheduled by email.