

Plant Utilization and Planning Committee
Meeting minutes
Wednesday September 21, 2011

Present: Irene Frieze, Paul Munro, Jeanine Buchanich, Kristen Gusten, Laura Zullo, Joe Fink, Amy Baker, Tracey Olanyk, Mark Scott, Susanna Leers, Buck Favorini, Mike Ramsey, John Wilds, Eli Shorak

Everyone introduced themselves.

We reviewed the committee membership roster.

There was concern about student representatives not coming to the meetings.
Paul Munro was added as a pro-tem member.

We reviewed the PUP mission statement.

The question was raised about the part on reviewing the capital budget. This is done by a representative from the committee, who cannot bring back any information about the budget meetings as they are closed and confidential.

Election of officers.

Irene Frieze and Paul Munro were elected as c-chairs for the committee. Tracey Olanyk was elected as secretary.

Minutes from the April 20, 2011 meeting were approved with changes.

Buck gave an update on the Sustainability subcommittee.

The committee will be working with admissions to highlight the University's sustainability efforts with the recruitment of students. It was suggested that the information could possibly be added to the Pathfinder tours.

They are also looking to implement a sustainability orientation for new students, faculty and staff. It was suggested that it could be attached to Kathy Humphrey's Outside the Classroom Curriculum.

The subcommittee is co-sponsors of the Blue, Gold and Green event.

The status of this is up in the air, the Sustainability subcommittee had a panel at the last Mascaro Center event. There needs to be a discussion because of a conflict of timing in the programs in the past. And it's possible that this event should just be folded into what the Mascaro Center is doing.

The Sustainability Subcommittee would like someone to come and report on the sustainability features of the new dorm/s.

They also want to stay on top of website updating.

Sometimes the link is on the front page, sometimes it is not.

They would like to add a box with names and functions of the Sustainability team. Joe pointed out that if you go to the Facilities Management website the Sustainability team info has been updated.

The subcommittee has decided on Thursday afternoons for meetings.

They would like to get more regular updates on conservation initiatives- for example, changes to LED lighting, checking windows for drafts...

They talked last year about the possibility of asking each student group to send one or two representatives, because they tend to have more people than room at the meetings.

Joe Fink gave us an update on Facilities Management initiatives.

The University was listed as one of the coolest schools by Sierra Magazine (it was based on a new survey Facilities filled out).

Over the summer there was a series of articles on the University's sustainability efforts in the Chronicle.

We are waiting to hear from the Princeton Review.

Joe was asked for an update on LEEDs certifications. They haven't heard anything official yet, there are 13 projects that have or we've applied for LEEDs certification.

General information discussed-

Battery recycling is set up in various places at the University. Someone asked about standardizing recycling containers. They are talking about getting more containers on the University grounds- those should be uniform. In facilities they blend in [match the décor] of the new buildings.

The University is a master sponsor for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference and expo that is coming to Pittsburgh Oct. 9-12, 2011.

Paul asked about wind turbine generators on campus. He pointed out there is a new turbine on the market without a blade and that it could be used for publicity if not for its power generation. Buck pointed out that his son recently did his master's thesis at Duke on wind turbines and that he found they were not feasible in Pittsburgh at this time.

Eli talked about the book center renovations. They are working on getting a form up on the Senate website for feedback from Faculty and Staff. Looking for ideas on operation- What third party vendors we'd be interested in seeing, what items would you like to see sold, what services would you like to see there (charging stations, a place you can transfer cell phone numbers when you get a new phone...). The bookstore will probably not sell computers but there is a possibility of a technology row where computers are available for people to review and place online orders with someone with technical knowledge to help you order the software/hardware you need, or answer questions about what it is you might need. Software sales might also be relocated to the bookstore- or possibly a second site. DEADLINE for feedback/ideas/comments is Oct. 21st, 2011.

Future agenda items

The Concordia club is now open, it was suggested that maybe our next meeting could be there and then we could get a tour. John is looking into setting that up.

Security system conversion to swipe cards.

Oakland traffic patterns-

Upgraded lighting on Bigelow, new light pole at WPU driveway to illuminate the crosswalk (city doesn't have the funding at this time), Future traffic changes when the new student housing goes in on 5th Ave. Possible closure of WPU 5th Ave entrance to the driveway. Paul pointed out the driveway to the quad is also dangerous to drivers and pedestrians.

Future issues- study on bike traffic and bike lanes in the area. The city is requiring protected bike racks. We are trying to continue to find spaces in parking garages where cars don't fit that bike racks will. There is a map that shows where the bike racks are online on the parking and transportation website.

Joe gave an update on renovations

Lots of projects were completed over the summer- Concordia Club, Chevron addition, new classrooms in OEH and Chevron, 2nd floor of Sennott, 9th floor of WPU, new greenhouse on Langley roof, 5th floor of CL English commons room, Bouquet expansion is complete and occupied, Barco student lounge, rain garden at Petersen Event center, and the Petersen sports complex. Thackery is being renovated, they are continuing to renovate Benedum, GSPH and Salk are in construction and demolition is in progress for the 5th Ave student housing. **[detailed information on the projects reported is covered in the "What's New at Pitt" article in the September 1, 2011 issue of the University Times.]**

Mark asked about the status of the patio at Hillman Library. We are currently in negotiations with contractors and will make changes to the plaza. Will possibly create a green roof at the level of the plaza but will not be able to start until next spring.

Someone asked about the funding sources for big projects. Chevron, GSPH and Salk were all partially state funded. The mid-campus project was partially funded with stimulus money. The Student dorm the university is paying for with reserves.

The question was raised how the mid-campus order of renovation was decided? The Prioritizing was done by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Future meetings- Oct. 26th and Nov. 30th 2-3:30 location TBA.

Meeting Adjourned.