

Stony Brook University
University Senate
Campus Environment Committee

June 25, 2007

V.P. Administration Conference Room, 221 Administration Bldg.
1:00 – 2:30 pm

Attending: Gil Hanson, Chair; Mary LaCorte, Vice-chair, Ramona Walls, Recording Secretary; Robert Aller, Bill Dethlefs, Catherine Horgan, Mary Hotaling, Kristen Nyitray, John Robinson, Paul Siegel, Ana Topolovec, Catherine Vetter, Fred Walter.

Excused: Malcolm Bowman, Ketty Dautruche, Wendy Fidaio, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Matthew Maiorella, John Murray, Dorothy Shannon Schiff, Kathleen Weber, and Muriel Weyl.

Staff: Barbara Chernow, Amy Provenzano.

Guests: Marianne Zacharia (Tobacco Action Coalition), Esselie Thompson (CHOICE/SHAC), Maureen O’Leary (Anatomy, Health Sciences Center).

Minutes

I. Introductions – G. Hanson

Introductions were made of all attendees.

II. Review of the Minutes – R. Walls

March minutes were approved. April minutes will be sent out tonight and approved over email.

III. Status Reports

1. Campus sustainability task force – A. Provenzano

Summary – started in March. Made up of A. Provenzano, students, other staff members and faculty. Looking at **whom** else to add to committee, without making it too large. Looking at sustainability items. Will pick 3 or 4 to work on over the year. Endeavor – waterless and low-flow urinals are on **trial**. Move out program in dormitories – to recycle or reuse items when students leave dorms. Looking for grants. R. Walls recommended Community of Science as a potential source for grants. P. Siegel brought some books and a thesis that should be relevant to the task force. A. Topolovec recommended National Wildlife Federation as a potential source of funding.

2. Recycling in HSC – M. O’Leary

There is currently no bottle or can recycling in hospital. Had a preliminary meeting with caterers and others. A. Provenzano spoke to the School of Medicine Faculty. Helped to inform everyone about recycling on other parts of campus. A. Provenzano is working with HSC, and they should have bottle recycling in place by end of summer. E. Thompson asked what is done with recycling that is collected in dorms. Said that in her dorm, the recycling dumpster was removed because people are throwing trash in it. A. Topolovec brought up recycling at the Veterans Home. They recycle paper, but probably not bottles and cans. M. LaCorte asked about what the

recycling policy is at the Tech Park. A. Provenzano said that SBU doesn't collect their waste or pay for it, so she doesn't know who deals with it. It may be part of their lease agreement.

3. University Safety Committee – M. Hotaling

M. Hotaling was waiting to find out who was on the committee. B. Chernow found out who it was: C. Horgan was already on that committee, but they no longer meet on a regular basis. C. Horgan said she is on the HSC committee, not the University committee, even though her name appears on the roster. Suzanne Benedetto (University Police) is listed at chair. C. Horgan said this was a very useful committee, but it has not met in a long time. G. Hanson will ask George Meyer about it. G. Hanson pointed out that our new charge includes safety and security.

4. Sewage Effluent Drainage Basins – B. Chernow

B. Chernow met with Peter Scully and other DEC staff. They agreed to review DPW project plans. B. Chernow is trying to set up a meeting with DPW and DEC simultaneously. Steve Engelbright met with Scully who said that basins might not be necessary.

5. Master Plan – B. Chernow

Working with Andropogon on the two other campuses (Southampton and Research & Development Park). Research & Development Park: Construction proceeding on CEWIT building. Working on Energy Center . Renovating building 17, so back office operations can move there. Working with Andropogon to develop site in an environmentally sound way. Working on environmental inventory. Working with Town to put in a well. Southampton: Renovating residential structures. Working on roadways and paths to remove barriers. Working on paving alternatives. Fixing HVAC problems in some buildings. Also doing environmental inventory, which the CEC will get to see.

No environmental master plan is scheduled for main campus and no funding set aside for it. Administration is working to assess the impact of growth on campus. RFP is out on the impact on utilities and roadways, but this is a not an environmental master plan.

CEC still supports the idea of an environmental master plan for this campus.

IV. New Business

1. How will increased enrollment affect campus.

R. Aller asked if B. Chernow's office was consulted on how the goal of 25,000 students would impact campus. B. Chernow said that her office is assessing the infrastructure on this campus. R. Aller also asked the Senate about how this number was arrived at, but no one seems to be willing to say where 25,000 came from. No one seems to have been consulted as to how this would affect services on campus. R. Aller expressed serious concern about how this will impact campus. P. Siegel asked if the 25,000 new students includes Southampton. B. Chernow said that Southampton will add about 2000 students, plus 23,000 here. Bob McGrath addressed this committee in late 2005 on how they came up with this number.

R. Aller asked when the report will be ready. B. Chernow said it will be finished 12 months from the starting date, but it hasn't started yet.

2. Parking on Campus

M. LaCorte brought up idea of Zip of Flex cars. G. Hanson asked if we could think about a parking garage. B. Chernow said that the cost is very expensive, but rates at garages are limited by union agreements and don't cover **the operating and maintenance cost**. Met with Liz McCoy about meeting with union to raise rates. Purchased more busses and increasing frequency of routes on campus. Working with DOT to increase bike connections to off-campus. Working with LIRR to increase frequency of schedules. T. Harrigan is trying to put together a group to work on this. G. Hanson said that there are often no shelters **at some bus stops**, such as at bookstore side of the Union, where the bus actually goes by. R. Walls asked about increasing frequency of Suffolk County busses or possibly subsidizing cost of public transportation for students. C. Horgan asked about the **lack** of busses from the train station to HSC. B. Chernow will add four new busses this year, including this route. G. Hanson asked what this committee can do? **B. Chernow suggested that this committee form a subcommittee to work with the unions on parking issues**. R. Walls, P. Siegel, B. Dethlefs and M. Hotaling agreed to work on a subcommittee to address parking issues, including more garages, car-pooling and enforcement. B. Chernow said that the University has also raised the price of parking fines. In November, rates will double, if all goes through, **plus a block registration and transcripts if fines are not paid**.

3. Smoking policy

B. Chernow has encouraged all University staff to enforce 1997 smoking policy. Until there is approval of new proposal, the existing policy will be enforced (no smoking within 15 ft of buildings on campus, or 50 ft on HSC). There are concerns about smoking policy with the two student governments. The role of University Police is to enforce state law, which includes littering (cigarette butts). B. Dethlefs is trying to keep people from the former smoking policy committee involved, because the goal of reforming the policy has not yet been met. E. Thompson took the lead on collecting signatures from people on campus that endorse a smoking ban. There was a paper petition and online signing. Also sent out mass emails, and most (over 90%) of signers supported the ban. Added a group on face book. Many students felt strongly about having a smoking ban. R. Walls discussed how **contentious** an issue this is for students. F. Walter said that we still need a committee of some sort to work on finding a better solution. G. Hanson asked if this was an issue for this committee? B. Dethlefs said that college students are the age group with the highest percent of smokers. The percent of smokers in New York is declining, possibly do to new policies, but perhaps **the few** remaining smokers are the most recalcitrant. F. Walter suggested **that the subcommittee should draft a new policy that offers both incentives to quite smoking, such as cessation programs and counseling, and clear and enforceable regulations. He also suggested designated smoking areas on campus, because it is infeasible to require people who feel they must smoke to leave campus in a setting such as ours**.

M. Zacharia part of the NYS government agency, the Tobacco Action Coalition. Their charge is to make non-smoking the norm, to work with the campus to make no smoking on grounds or near dorms. They have a vested interest in this issue, can provide signs, etc. They have money to support policies on campus. C. Horgan asked if there was a way to tie smoking cessation programs at hospital to **address** cultural change issues on campus. M. Zacharia is working with SHS and employee health. They now provide nicotine replacement free for students and for employees. A. Provenzano said that there may not be an inventory of whether or not all buildings have receptacles or signs. A. Topolovec said that in the hospital, they will paint a line

50 feet from the entrance, to clearly mark the no smoking zone. G. Hanson asked B. Dethlefs if he was willing to continue with the subcommittee. The subcommittee would work on education, signage, and pressure on administration to enforce policy. P. Siegel pointed out that there will always be at least some people on campus who smoke, so a total ban will criminalize a percentage of the population. B. Dethlefs said that over 40 universities and colleges are smoke free already, and it leads to a decrease in the total percent of smokers. P. Siegel said that its still seems very draconian. F. Walter suggested that if we are going to form a subcommittee it should have a mission. He suggested finding a compromise policy and seeking ways to educate and enforce policies. J. Robinson suggested finding “safety valves”; policy should be weighted toward the rights of non-smokers. R. Aller mentioned our original suggestion of having smoking areas on campus. If we banned smoking everywhere, people would go into the woods, which would be dangerous. M. Zacharia suggested looking to make the hospital smoke free as a start, as other hospitals on Long Island are doing. B. Dethlefs mentioned that is not always so clear where you divide the main campus from hospital campus. Smoking is still legal, and in NY, smokers cannot be discriminated against. B. Dethlefs will go back to sub-committee members and ask for their input. C. Vetter is also a volunteer. R. Walls suggested offering to include members of USG and GSO.

V. Subcommittee Reports

1. Friends of Ashley Schiff – M. LaCorte

Showed new poster. There is a renegade person spraying poison ivy. The university is not doing this, and they are getting other plants too.

2. Little Acre Woods – P. Siegel

Was planted during campus pride patrol. Suggested that the sub-committee could probably be disbanded at this point. Sent a letter to B. Chernow thanking her for funding and recognizing Matt Kibby’s efforts. P. Siegel motioned to dissolve committee. Subcommittee was dissolved F. Walter motioned to thank the sub-committee for all their hard work.

3. F. Walter asked about trimming brush on bike paths. A. Provenzano will tell B. Chernow about it.

4. A. Provenzaio mentioned FIXIT on the SBU website, to report any maintenance issues.

VI. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on August 27, 2007, at 1:00 PM, in the VP Administration Conference Room.