

Minutes – Social Concerns Committee: Tuesday, December 5, 2006

In Attendance:

Voting: Alton Frabetti, Ramona Wells, Leone Brown, Scott Zotto, Sarah Knapp

Non-Voting: Dante Diianni

Old Business Update

Alton opened the meeting asking about what we could do to be more effective in getting things done. He suggested using the many campus media outlets.

Alton informed the committee as to his meetings with Jim O'Connor, Director of Busing Services, and his later attendance with the Bus Advisory Committee. In this latter meeting he spoke directly with Terence Harrigan. The result of his meeting with O'Connor was written as an article for the SB Graduate Magazine.

With Harrigan, he discussed alternate solutions to the lack of a bicycle route, as well as the safety issue for pedestrian crossings between Chapin and the University Hospital on Health Sciences Drive.

Alton also emailed O'Connor about his concerns for babies on buses – he has seen mothers climb on the bus from Chapin, but since there is no safety seat to strap the children into, the mother holds the baby on her lap. This is a huge safety risk in the event of a sudden braking or a collision of any kind – the child would fly out of her hands.

Dante spoke at length about his concerns for the lack of a viable, safe bike route from Chapin, where he lives. The committee informed him of their previous discussions of this issue at the last meeting. Dante was invited to help by writing an article to the Statesman. Ramona Walls offered to write one for the Independent.

Alton suggested some kind of GSO help fund for buying safety equipment for bicyclists – this would be a helmet, front and rear light. Many grad students do not use this basic safety equipment. Leone mentioned the Freewheel Collective as a source for good deals; Scott Zotto offered to talk to them.

The Committee was wondering if Jin Park would be willing to film the bike itinerary.

Dante also wondered about cleaning up on campus, in particular the filth by the train station. He was suggested avenues that already exist in which participation could be invited (i.e. Campus Pride Patrol).

The committee then spent 1.5 hours reviewing and compiling the quality of life survey. Alton offered to type it and email it to them afterwards for further review.