

Senate Plant Utilization and Planning Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday January 18, 2012

Present: Mark Scott, Amy Baker, Jeanine Buchanich, Nancy Baker, JP Matychak, Laura Zullo, Joe Fink, Dan Marcinko, Kristen Gusten, Mike Ramsey, Paul Munro, Irene Frieze, Pat Weiss, Tracey Olanyk, John Wilds

**We went around the room and introduced ourselves.**

**Minutes from Nov. 11, 2011 were approved- with corrections.**

**Dan Marcinko filed in for Buck and gave us an update on the Sustainability Committee.**

They had a meeting Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Facilities Management is installing hydration stations in Hillman Library. Facilities Management is working with Duquesne Light to obtain additional Act 129 funds for energy conservation projects. The University is receiving the grant for the electric charging stations to be located in O'Hara, Soldiers and Sailors, and Posvar garages (UPMC is also getting some charging stations). Kit Ayers discussed using electronic vs. mail notices. She indicated that 1000 staff and 400 faculty have opted into the program. Discussed requiring opt out vs. opt in. Sustainability Orientation was discussed for students, faculty and staff regarding maps showing recycling areas and bike racks. Also, discussed creating a one page orientation sheet and providing links to the sustainability website.

New developments since the Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> mtg- The University received two more LEED Gold certifications; one for MCSI addition and renovation (earned 39 or 41 submitted credits); and the BEH Phase I Core and Shell Version 2.2 (earned 35 of the 36 submitted credits). The university will be featured in the Princeton Review guide to Green Colleges. Last year 311 colleges were featured. We are working on our 2012 submission. Recycle Mania trial starts Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> for two weeks. The actual competition begins Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. The University is planting two trees in honor of Wangari Maathai who passed away this fall from cancer. She was a Kenyan environmentalist and Nobel Prize winner who had a degree from Pitt. One tree represents her life in Kenya and one represents her life here.

**Joe Fink gave us an update on building renovations and construction.**

All projects are continuing. There will be a University Times article on the bookstore redesign. There will be a new traffic light going in by the new dorm (5<sup>th</sup> and University Place). It will be timed with the other lights on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**Discussion of crowded PAT buses and possible service changes.**

Irene passed around a newspaper article announcing new transit cuts, there is concern that in addition to the routes that will be cut buses will not run after 10pm- this will be particularly hard for people working shifts in the local hospitals that take mass transit.

John Wilds pointed out that the Port Authority is holding a seminar for employers tomorrow in the WPU. They will go over a lack of funding from the Commonwealth, the route that are being cut, and additional 40 routes that might be cut (half of the routes will be left). They are also cutting the 28X to the airport. The question was raised about Port Authority getting additional long busses in their fleet to help alleviate problems with crowding. Port Authority is looking at that as well as a separate system to get people from downtown to East of the city and vice versa.

**Classroom Management Committee update.**

Paul gave us a report from the Committee's October minutes (see attached). The question was asked if we should have a more official report from the committee or if Paul's summary was acceptable. Consensus seemed to be that the abbreviated report was acceptable. The committee also had a presentation from furniture contractors.

**Discussion of enhancements for bicycle riders to campus.**

It was generally agreed that Kevin Sheehy was the person to ask to come talk to our committee about this. Things that were brought up in the discussion- the city has put in new bike lanes, but they are all over and not all connected. The city wants to put in more bike lanes. Someone suggested asking Bike Pittsburgh to come give us a presentation. Or possibly working with them to have an urban biking workshop available to the community, this could possibly be coordinated with the Student Activities Council.

**We decided on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> as dates for future meetings.**

Tracey bumbled through the question- since the University is not half way through the 12 year plan and renovations to be considered for the next 10/12 year plan need to be submitted by Deans- is there something in place when a building requires repeated repairs, that a Dean might not be aware of, someone else stops to evaluate the cost of continuing to patch something versus renovating for buildings not in the 12 year plans? The answer was yes. There are people monitoring invoices so that those decisions can be made.

**We then discussed future agenda items.**

Visit to Langley/Crawford renovations and additions. Status of fitness and exercise facilities for faculty and staff, update on building security upgrades. There was a question about the security/exit doors in the Posvar Hall parking lot not being open during off hours to people parking in the lot that don't work in Posvar Hall- Facilities will look into it. And a question about accommodations for those who smoke- is the University looking into putting up shelters?

**Meeting was adjourned.**

**Next meeting to be at 2pm Wed. February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**