

Senate Plant Utilization and Planning Committee  
Meeting minutes  
Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Present: Kristin Gusten, Jeanine Buchanich, Mark Scott, Irene Freze, Laura Zullo, Joe Fink, Paul Supowitz, John Wilds, Patricia Weiss, Paul Munro, Eli Shorak, Susanna Leers, Tracey Olanyk

**We went around the room and everyone introduced themselves.**

**Buck reported on the Sustainability subcommittee.** The next meeting is Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> in the Martin room at 3pm. They are going to talk about what can be done to incorporate sustainability in to the orientations for new faculty, staff, and students. At their last meeting Kevin Sheehy presented on the new bus pass/scanning, parking, and the grant that they received to put in charging stations for electric cars in some of the garages.

**Since we took tours of the O'Hara Student Center and the Chevron Science Center to see the renovations, there were no minutes from the October 26, 2011 meeting to review.** Some of the feedback from the tours was- that people were happy about the restoration of some of the architectural features of the old Concordia club and were glad they were not just ripped out for new spaces, the renovations in Chemistry were amazing and state of the art, it was suggested to get feedback from the students about the O'Hara Student Center- that has already been done and the big issue seems to be storage. Irene sent thank you notes.

We've been invited to tour the Langley/Crawford greenhouse and renovations. Irene will talk to Richard Howe to set this up.

There was a discussion of whether or not the committee should set up tours of problem buildings/areas and not just ones that have been renovated. The benefits of those tours was not clear and we would have to make sure that all sides on the issues were represented. For example older buildings more often need renovations, but are harder to renovate because they are usually occupied.

They are going to add classrooms where the GSPIA/ECON library used to be and half may be interim swing space for the bookstore renovations.

The idea for themed tours came up- classrooms and new innovations that are being done, accessibility over campus (this is addressed as identified and in all renovations), quiet study space. The question came up as to whether or not accessibility in off campus places was available to students.

**Annual report 2010-2011-** Paul gave the report. It contained a list of the developments in facilities, current concerns and future agenda items, items from the Sustainability SubCommittee.

**Finding late night study areas for students.** – Where can students go now? for those on campus they have quiet and group study areas in the residence halls. Outside the residence halls it becomes an issue of making sure the areas have security and safety. Student affairs has been looking at which buildings lend themselves to quiet study spaces, based on their ability to safely lock off the first floor (to minimize

staffing costs). Facilities is looking at a survey to see what areas work well during finals week and extend it but they need to get input from Student Affairs. Hillman- doesn't have enough space for students when it's busy, not containable. The Law Library asks undergrads to leave after 6 since they barely have enough seats to pass ABA certification.

**Renovations and Construction-** Chevron is complete, GSPH- demolition is done beginning the foundation, Salk- is on hold/and ongoing, Benedum- high tech classrooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floor renovations, Thackery- completed, Turkish and Swiss Nationality rooms in the Cathedral- done by the end of the year (paid for 100% by outside donations). Asked the state for funding to redo elevator system in the Cathedral of Learning- it will be a destination based system- you would go to a kiosk and tell it what floor you want to go to and the computer will tell you with elevator to go to. They may also utilize a twin elevator system- which would be the first in the U.S., and has been approved by Labor and Industry. The new dorm is coming along- should be done by July 2013, new sports center is being used and the community is glad the facilities are there. Looking at a master plan for intramurals to use the field and all facilities.

**Book center renovations-** there were over a hundred responses to the survey. Which confirmed things that administration thought should be a part of the renovation plans, but also brought to light other things- a push to eliminate lockers and the need to put bags away (this might be something that can be done for only those going to the textbook area on the lower floor, rather than everyone having to do it). More scholarly and University press books, better layout/signage, lots of ideas on how to organize the bookstore, more of an area for travel, more nonfiction, books by Pitt faculty, books about Pittsburgh, technology- kindle/nooks..., stronger art supply section. No deadline yet, it's currently in the schematic design phase. Pat Weiss asked Eli to summarize and get the results of the survey out to the Senate.

**Meeting was adjourned.**