

2007-2008 ACADEMIC YEAR-END REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE FACILITIES COMMITTEE

This year the UWFC met six times with an average attendance of nine members. Major tasks in terms of time and energy consumption were:

- University Center Expansion and Renovation
- Dangerous situations from vehicular traffic in and around the campus.
- The American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment
- Gym Floor renovation and Mercury Abatement
- Campus Master Plan Implementation: New tennis courts and a new multipurpose athletic field.

Discussion

University Center Expansion and Renovation Last year Butch Kotcamp, Director of SSU Facilities and Planning, came before the UWFC to discuss plans for renovating the University Center and to request an endorsement on both the architect's plans which include building a new dining room and a new kitchen for the over 600 students who now reside on campus, and an endorsement on levying a student fee of \$150 per semester to fund the project. The UWFC endorsed both.

This past year the University-Wide Facilities Committee (UWFC) took some part of each meeting to discuss proposed changes, and keep updated on the progress. Discussions included just what did the SGA agree to on fees, when will the \$150 per semester fee be implemented and how are student fees going to be used to pay for the renovation. This is still an ongoing discussion. Discussion also centered on making sure student groups had adequate space to meet, and store materials; a possible bookstore being incorporated; a possible "Food Court" being implemented.

As an energy conservation measure, it was suggested that the heating and air conditioning systems of the new University Center and the ATC be tied together.

Dangerous situations from vehicular traffic in and around the campus.

At almost every meeting the topic of dangerous situations came up. On November 12, 2007, the UWFC sent forward three recommendations to Dr. Rite Rice Morris. See attachment #1. Dr. Morris requested to meet with the UWFC for further discussion on these and other issues. A meeting was called for December 4th. A basic theme of Dr. Morris' remarks was the necessity of working together with the City of Portsmouth to resolve and remedy the traffic situations.

The American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment

At the December 4th meeting, Dr. Morris also brought forward a request for the UWFC to review, discuss, and recommend to the President our views on Dr. Morris signing on to this nation-wide commitment to reduce carbon emissions. Two meetings were devoted to this topic, and on January 23rd, UWFC voted affirmatively to send forward our endorsement. See attachment # 2.

Gym Floor renovation and Mercury Abatement. It has been known for sometime that our gym floor needed to be removed, and the Mercury—used as an element in the rubber sub-flooring—abated. This year contracts were awarded, and in March 2008, the gym closed to all activities. [This made for an innovative Commencement staging area!] Work is expected to be completed by Fall semester.

Campus Master Plan Implementation. Following two years of committee work, and eleven versions of a new campus master plan, it was thought that we should immediately implement some of the new features. The two that were selected were 1. New tennis courts to be constructed on the east side of campus—more friendly to the students by locating near their housing. These courts are expected to be completed by the beginning of Fall Semester. [The old tennis courts will become an additional parking lot] and 2. A Multipurpose (primarily athletic) field. The UWFC endorsed the plans and location of the new field—on the north east quadrant of the campus, where there are current parking lots on the south side of Third Street. The covering will be a new kind of artificial turf that will reduce injuries. The field is projected to be completed during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Important but not time consuming this year were:

- UWFC support for the new Financial Efficiencies mandated for all state college and university campuses.
- Relocation of the Planning and Facilities Office from the Business Annex to the West Bay of the Advanced Technology Center.
- SSU's new automated telephone-communication system to alert SSU employees and students of important events, such as campus closings.
- Electrical projects such as relocating utilities and installing emergency generators.

All-in-all, it was a very productive year with several very dedicated committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. Patric Leedom, Chair, University-Wide Facilities Committee

Attachment # 1:

Date: November 12, 2007

From: Patric Leedom, Chair, University-Wide Facilities Committee

To: Dr. Rita Rice Morris, President of Shawnee State University

Subject: Recommendations for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Dr. Morris:

At the UWFC's first meeting of the year, members brought forward several safety issues for consideration. We discussed them at the September 18th meeting, then put them out in the minutes for further review and discussion. At our recent October 30th meeting, we brought the three issues up for final discussion and a vote.

Issue 1.

A request was made to correct a dangerous situation on Third Street at the intersection of Waller. The problem is that when vehicles are traveling south on Waller to Third Street, parked cars on

the northeast side of Third Street prevent the driver from seeing if any traffic is coming from the left. After several suggestions, it was decided that an efficient and effective solution in order to keep cars from obscuring the southbound driver's clear vision of the traffic, would be to request the Portsmouth City Traffic Committee paint an additional thirty (30) feet of the curb in an eastward direction from the current yellow zone on the northeast side of Third. A formal motion was made to send this recommendation to Dr. Morris. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Issue 2.

Lori Perry brought up the traffic issue of pedestrians crossing Mill Street, the service road, from the parking lots under/near the bridge to the sports complex. She said often it was difficult to see in advance, the people trying to cross, and that some vehicles were driving above safe limits. She asked if a cross walk or speed bump could be put in. The committee took this proposal up for action. It was suggested that both a crosswalk and a speed bump be established at each of the two locations identified—one on the east side of the tennis courts, and the other at the corner where the Dental Clinic has a door. With consultation from the Facilities and Planning Department, the committee understood that if this recommendation was approved, that crosswalks could be established fairly soon, but the speed bumps would need to wait until the asphalt plant starts up in the spring and SSU begins to do parking lot repairs. A motion was made to send this recommendation forward. A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

Issue 3.

Carl Daehler submitted a formal proposal to the UWFC:

"I have concerns about the safety of pedestrians who visit the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts not only for events at the Center, but also students who cross at the intersection of Gay and third Streets.

Two factors have led to these concerns:

- 1) increased foot traffic at this intersection due to more frequent use of parking lots located north of Third Street; and
- 2) increased traffic on Third Street due to the bridge opening.

Therefore, I would recommend that the Facilities Committee address the safety of this intersection and propose that a painted crosswalk be established across Third Street on the east side of the intersection of Gay Street.

I would also recommend that a pedestrian crossing sign be placed on both the east and west bound lanes of Third Street acknowledging this crossing.

I also would like to propose that there be a turning lane in the west bound lane of third Street at the entrance of the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts main entrance (located at the foot of Gay Street). There is now a "no-turn" sign posted in the west bound lane of Third and the lane turning into the VRCFA is marked with diagonals (i.e. No turn allowed)."

After discussion, a motion was made to accept Carl Daehler's recommendations and to send them forward to Dr. Morris. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Morris, on behalf of the University-Wide Facilities Committee, I duly submit for your consideration, the above three proposals.

Respectfully, Patric Leedom, Chair.

Attachment # 2:

Date: January 25, 2008

From: The University-Wide Facilities Committee

To: Dr. Rita Rice-Morris, President;

Subject: Endorsement of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment

Dr. Morris:

The University-Wide Facilities Committee met Wednesday, January 23, 2008. Nine members were in attendance. One major item of business was the request that the UWFC endorse SSU's President signing the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, making SSU a partner and accepting the obligations represented in the Commitment.

There was 25 minutes of detailed discussion about the implications of SSU signing this commitment. The major topics of discussion included:

- This document is not legally binding. If an institution who signs does not fulfill the commitment as agreed upon, that institution becomes "not in good standing" and that is so listed on the ACUPCC Website.
- There is provision in the contract for institutions to modify their Climate Action Plan as the institution's circumstances change.
- According to Dr. Morris, we can, to some extent, pick and choose the targets we wish to pursue.
- In developing our CAP, we may include actions we have already taken in the last few years, e.g. to conserve energy, and reduce the carbon footprint.
- While the contract does call for an institutional infrastructure to develop SSU's plans and to oversee the implementation, it is understood that the President will utilize the existing committees, and not create a whole new committee.

After a lively discussion a motion was made and seconded to endorse the SSU President's signing of this commitment. A vote was taken. The result was a unanimous vote for approval. Therefore the University-Wide Facilities Committee hereby endorses the proposal.

**Respectfully submitted,
Patric Leedom, Chair.**