



FACILITIES COUNCIL  
MEETING NOTES  
February 1, 2006, 3:00 p.m., Bldg. 7/201

Present: Mason Davis, Robin Geyer, Marie Matsen, Happi Matthews,  
Bob Mention, Margaret Robertson, Mike Ruiz, Tracy Simms  
Susan Tatar

Absent: Karen Catlin, Dawn DeWolf, Glenn Goss, Sandy Ing-Wiese, Patrick Lanning

**1. Agree on Agenda**

The committee agreed on the agenda.

**2. Approve Minutes**

Minutes approved.

**3. Core Values Draft - Discussion**

Margaret introduced the draft to add sustainability to the college's core values. Margaret said the proposal would go through several groups for review. The college community would have an opportunity to discuss the draft on a web bulletin board and at the Spring Conference before voting on whether to accept it.

The council discussed the proposal and how the current core values include sustainability. Margaret asked the committee to send opinions on the Core Values Draft to her or Jennifer Hayward. The council will have other opportunities to review changes to the draft.

**4. Sustainability Policies Draft - Discussion**

Marie said that the Sustainability Core Group did most of the work on the Sustainable Policies drafts, trying to separate policy from procedure. The group consisted of Marie, Jennifer Hayward, Anna Scott, Mike Sims, Jennifer Steele, Margaret Robertson, and Mike Ruiz.

Under the Design and Construction policy, Marie discussed some of the issues associated with policies and implementation. The committee discussed how the use of words such as "fully" and "shall" could make implementation difficult. The committee discussed how to make the policies enforceable, have them taken seriously, and frame the policy to set a high standard yet allow implementation. Mason referred to the Rhode Island statement on a green environment and how that institution addresses shared or common areas around projects. Marie said that the committee might have to discuss implementation plans that could meet the values.

Under Energy Conservation, Tracy pointed out that the first policy was more of a goal. Marie said that one of the goals of the recycling policy is to assure that waste areas are designed into new remodels or construction. The committee discussed looking at policy vs. goal.

Mason suggested using positive statements. Mason and Tracy suggested that all the titles include the word Sustainability to clarify what the policy is and for future web searches.

Mike Ruiz moved and Happi Matthews seconded that the council agree that the draft policies are the right direction and the work should be carried on. Tracy asked that it be clarified that the Facilities Council would do more work on the policies. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Learning Council Collaboration**

Margaret announced a joint session of the Facilities Council and the Learning Council has been scheduled for Friday, February 24, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Margaret said that questions the session might help answer are what to build or if to build and what needs, directions or guidance can be given to consultants.

**6. Design Principles – Emerging Themes**

The committee brainstormed some design elements:

- Human scale – space between buildings. Some space looks like a narrow funnel.
- Too many big expanses of concrete.
- Narrow, confined spaces are not inviting.
- Seating is scattered. There are no large meeting areas with seating.
- Need seating at entrances or transitions. Lack of seating sends message of “don’t linger”.
- Building numbers are confusing. Retain names.
- Consider that main campus is a commuter campus; there are no dorms. Past design has been to serve learning, not life. Need to serve the whole person.
- Incorporate spaces that honor nature. Have more natural space. Integrate the natural with use by people. Don’t put trees in concrete boxes.
- Lack of connection between programs/disciplines. Students tend to stay in the building(s) where their major course of study occurs. Mixed community vs. discipline networking. Network by intermixing with others.
- Organization of current structures inhibits conversation and intermixing.
- Add artistic elements, e.g., front entrance garden/maze.
- Incorporate covered outdoor space.
- Address safety, especially after dark. Avoid light pollution.
- Some building exits are into alleys, e.g., between buildings 1 and 19. Access to service areas is too visible.
- Use more natural landscape for less maintenance.
- Universal accessibility. Access for people with disabilities.

**7. Involving the Larger Campus Community**

The council brainstormed ideas for involving the campus community:

- Do a student survey or conduct focus groups of what they like/don’t like and what they would like to see in future design.
- Environmental behavior studies:
  - Observe where students congregate on sunny days.
  - Issue a chair to new arrivals to campus. Observe where and how new arrivals mingle and set their chair.
  - Observe desire lines where people walk
- Involve Learning Council and Student Affairs.
- Encourage Learning Council and Student Affairs to take photos, especially of indoor spaces.

**8. Next Meeting**

February 15, 3-5 p.m., Bldg. 7/201

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.  
Submitted by: Susan Tatar