

Council on the Physical Environment Annual Report to the University Senate

May 30, 2007

Members:

Michael L. Dale USAC	Scott D. Scheer FAES
Yuval Z. Flicker MAPS	W. Michael Sherman OAA
Daniel J. Frost USG	Mike Sullivan IPC
Deborah Y. Georg ENG (Chair)	Scott T. Surovjak USG
James C. Lang MED	Melissa A. Bellini FOD, Steve Volkmann, representative
James D. Metzger FAES	Sally Blatt, FOD support staff to the Council
Jack L. Nasar ENG	
Steven W. Rissing BIO SCI	

1 open position: Appointment of/by Council of Graduate Students/Steering (unfilled 2006-7)

Campus Resources:

Dr. Fred Sanfilippo, Sr. Vice President and Exec. Dean Health Sciences
Others in the Health Sciences and College of Biological Sciences
Larry Lewellen, OAA, Assist. Vice President
Sarah Blouch, OBF Dir. Transportation, Parking and Transport
Aparna Dial, OBF, Sustainability Program Director
Christina Redman, Recycling Program Co-coordinator
Jane Harrison, Ag. Admin. and "Free the Planet", Forest Products Usage Reduction

The Council on the Physical Environment of the University Senate is pleased to report on its activities during the 2006-07 academic year.

The members represent faculty, staff and students all concerned and committed to making the Ohio State University Physical Environment the highest quality place to nurture and support learning, research, scholarship and service. We thank all those who have contributed to the work of the Council and who continue to assist in this work.

The Council first took on the task of making its work and "workings" more effective and enduring. From the charge of the Senate, COPE is to:

"Take a broad and encompassing perspective of the physical environment of the University as it affects the academic enterprise and quality of life for the University community..."

The Council has sought to clarify the critical issues to be addressed in the physical environment as they directly relate to this charge and the working structure of the Council. To do this, the members identified three primary focus areas which should have "standing status" as working groups within COPE. This is the first step in making COPE a more effective unit, and in enabling action over an extended time period. The three areas/issues identified are not structured by "domain" (OAA, TP&T, FOD, etc.) but are structured based on the opportunities for leadership in creating the QUALITY EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT which COPE is charged with facilitating and clustering the issues by common concerns.

The three standing Work Groups of COPE have been Identified as:

#1 Green Campus (Sustainability, Recycling, Development Policies)

(Jack Nasar, Lead, Jim Metzger, Scott Scheer, Steve Rissing)

#2 Environmental Issues in Learning, Teaching & Research Environments:

(Steve Rissing, Lead, Steve Volkmann, Mike Dale, Scott Surovjak)

#3 Health and Wellness (student/public safety, & healthful environments)

(Jas Lang ,Lead, Yuval Flicker,Jack Nasar, Mike Sullivan)

To effect action the committee chose to meet the second Tuesday of each month, with the fourth Tuesday as a "working group meeting time" or as alternative for full COPE meetings.

Meetings were held after the full committee was appointed in November, December, January, February, March, April (twice) and May, with its last scheduled meeting of the year academic year to be June 5th. The committee will determine at that time if meetings will be held during the summer months.

The agendas first focused on defining the critical issues of the year, with a Survey of the Council made to set priorities. With these priorities, the working groups were established.

As a Council charged with hearing and providing input on various issues on campus, one primary issue remained from 2006, Smoking on Campus. Steve Volkmann representative of Melissa Bellini, updated the committee periodically on issues pertinent to FOD, such as the crosswalk committee and issues related to Flyer and Newspaper distribution on campus, as well as the recycling initiative for the Oval in conjunction with USG. Sarah Blouch requested that COPE assist with TP&T's anti-idling campaign, and Jane Harrison of "Free the Planet" on Forest Products Usage Reduction. COPE has provided input and recommendations for next steps, with a meeting with Business Ops Taskforce in Autumn 2007.

The Working Groups met with varying degrees of frequency. The most active was the Health and Wellness group which assisted the Council in its first priority for action, the investigation of creating a campus wide Smoking Ban, similar to that at the College of Medicine and Biological Sciences, with the Goal of forwarding a resolution to Steering by the End of the Academic Year. The working group sought out the expertise of those involved in developing the Ban in the Medical/Bio Sciences campus area, as well as researching other institutions and their policies. The primary catalyst to this effort is the Ohio Issue 5 on the Ballot in November 2006 which creates non-smoking areas in the exterior as well as interior environment, notably around entries, air intakes under any overhang and in other "public" zones. The foundation for the work came from prior Language for the Ban instituted on campus July, 2006. Input was received from members of staff, findings from the Medical Center studies and Larry Lewellen regarding the administrations position, particularly as it relates to "your plan for Health".

A Resolution of Intent was developed and forwarded to Senate Steering. Jas Lang and Deborah Georg joined Larry Lewellen in presenting the rationale, and the COPE resolution and status of Administration's Non- Smoking initiative to the Senate Committee on Diversity at the request of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility. The Diversity Committee declined to place the item on their agenda, as members considered the referral to their committee as a perpetuation of minority stereotyping and that accepting it would further such stereotypical perceptions. Research was cited that white males are the largest smoking cohort.

Senate Steering heard a brief presentation of the resolution, at the April 27th meeting. Various questions were raised, though time on the agenda was not adequate to answer them all. COPE plans to continue the OSU Tobacco Free initiative in the coming year, in concert with other groups, seeking demographic specific input and identifying the critical

cost/benefits to the campus in maintenance reductions, health cost reductions as well as potentials for national leadership in this critical area of social cost to our community. (Draft of the proposed Resolution of Intent, EXHIBIT A).

In addition, COPE is asked to have representatives serve on appropriate ad hoc and standing committees within the University. Currently, Jack Nasar is serving on a Crosswalk Planning Committee, Deborah Georg is serving on the Space and Facilities Committee and on the Olentangy River 5th Avenue Dam Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Board.

COPE Agenda for 2007-2008

At the final meeting of COPE an initial agenda for 2007-8 will be drafted, and then circulated to key offices which COPE is set to serve, including OAA, FOD, HR, TP&T, Athletics, Sustainability Program, University Architect, Landscape Architect and Engineer Offices, Recycling Program and others.

By Work Group, the agenda is expected to address one or more of the following:

#1 Green Campus (Sustainability, Recycling, Development Policies)

- *Traffic and Parking issues*, NO idling, Fees and Incentives for Sustainable actions, physical layout and stormwater issues.*
- *Use of "Green" products* per "Free the Planet" initiative*
- *Design Standards for sites and buildings Campus wide, setting LEEDS goals**
- *Waste-cycle management and reduction**
- *"Green" Maintenance **
- *Stormwater and Utilities**
- *Olentangy River Low head dam and Riparian corridor changes**

#2 Environmental Concerns (includes Campus as Classroom, Labs)

- *Campus as "living laboratory" and valuable educational "collections": (examples: Geology, Horticulture, natives as predominant material with exotics as "specimens", Arts integration, % for arts, music and theater at Browning and other locales), Literature, great etc*
- *Enhancing the Campus as Classroom*
- *Improvement and Facilitation of Research/Teaching connections to FOD to align researchers and research needs with appropriate maintenance and facility controls.*
- *Use of "CHANGE" on campus as part of the Undergraduate Research Experience.**

#3 Health and Wellness (includes student/public safety)

- *Campus Security and Safety*
- *Non Smoking: Tobacco Free or other resolution.*
- *Campus as a model healthful working/living environment: * (Positive way-finding, true accessibility, stress-reduction, ADA, pedestrian motivations, Quality of Life as stress reduction/medical cost containment strategy, in combination with "Your plan for Health"*
- *Design for safety: Pedestrian, Vehicular and in class/campus activities**

** above as each would provide excellent service learning and research opportunities. Many of these are already on-going*

Conclusion

This report summarizes the work and focus of the current membership of COPE. COPE will continue its investigation of how to best fulfill its charge and how changes in its structure can better facilitate its efficacy in improving the Physical Environment. With the changes proposed for Senate Committee reform, significant and meaningful revisions are possible.

Those who are on the Council and will be returning look forward to a productive and effective year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Y. Georg, Chair

May 30, 2007