

**Council on the Physical Environment  
Annual Report to the University Senate May 5, 2011**

I am pleased to submit the 2010-2011 annual report of the Council on the Physical Environment to the University Senate. The members of COPE are: George Billman MED, Allen Firestone DENT, Steve Rissing BIO SCI, Jeffrey Haase ARTS, Bruce Johnson LAW, Richard Moore FAES, Maria Manta Conroy (City & Regional Planning), Sean Fitzpatrick (USG), Mike DePauw (USG), Sridhar Vedachalam (CGS), Lindsay Mooney (IPC). Our non-voting members are: Julie Anstine, Mike Boehm, and Geoff Chatas. I thank all of the members for their work over the past year. In addition, I thank Terry Foegler, Lynn Readey, Steve Volkmann, and Charles Finlay for their valuable participation in the work of the Council.

In response to a request from the Chair of the Faculty Council, COPE's first business of the academic year was working with Julie Anstine and Terry Foegler on a presentation to the Faculty Council on the *One Ohio State Framework*. The request from Faculty Council leadership was for a presentation that would focus how the *Framework* will affect campus planning and the role of the faculty in that process, going forward. Ms. Anstine and Mr. Foegler gave COPE, at its November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, a preview of the presentation they proposed making to the Faculty Council. Comments and suggestions from COPE's members were then incorporated into the presentation which was given at the January 27, 2011 meeting of the Faculty Council.

Over the course of the year, COPE has examined a number of the many issues involving the physical environment at Ohio State. At its December meeting, COPE met with Lynn Readey, Associate Vice President Facilities Operations and Maintenance, regarding the broad issue of deferred maintenance at Ohio State. Since questions of deferred maintenance form one important strand of campus development under the Framework, the discussion with Ms. Readey was enlightening and useful. In January, COPE heard from Steve Volkmann, University Landscape Architect, regarding public signage on campus. COPE was shown a presentation prepared for the Integrated Physical Planning Liaison Group (IPPLG) on campus signage. We then discussed with Mr. Volkman broad issues of signage and wayfinding on campus, and, also, the more specific issue of whether or not signs identifying a particular building should also identify the unit or college occupying the building. The discussion on this latter point did not result in a consensus and this is an issue that will remain before COPE.

At its February meeting, COPE met with Mary Maloney, Director of the Chadwick Arboretum. Ms. Maloney and the members of COPE discussed the plans for the Howlett Hall green roof. We also discussed broader issues of trees on campus including preservation of trees, and development of the green canopy.

Our March meeting was devoted to a wide-ranging conversation with Mike Boehm, Vice Provost for Academic Planning (and a member of COPE). While some of this discussion involved specific projects most of our time was spent on the role of COPE in campus planning. This is a continuation of a conversation begun under Dr. Boehm's predecessor on the important question of how does COPE, as a creature of the Senate representing faculty, administration and

students, fit into a planning process which has been significantly changed by the *Framework*? There are multiple ways in which COPE can function in this process: serving as a clearinghouse of information, commenting on planning priorities and district level plans. Could COPE provide input, particularly from the perspective of faculty and students, on specific plans without duplicating the work of the Design Review Board? We also discussed how issues might be brought to COPE for its consideration, and how to establish a reliable flow of information. With regard to this latter point, COPE commends Dr. Boehm for implementing two measures. The first was arranging for forwarding the minutes of the IPPLG to COPE. Since COPE is not represented on IPPLG, having access to the minutes is important given the central role of that group in the planning process. Dr. Boehm also initiated the first of what we hope will be a regular series of periodic meetings with the COPE Chair and Terry Foegler. Dr. Boehm was also helpful in arranging a presentation and discussion (which will be held at our next meeting) of financial and budgeting issues in the capital planning process.

Outside of its regular meetings, several members of COPE, including the Chair, have attended meetings of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. In addition, this spring the Chair of COPE invited the Chair of the Design Review Board to attend a meeting of COPE. Although we were not able to schedule this meeting for the current academic years, both Chairs believe that such a meeting is important given the complimentary jurisdictions of their respective organizations. We hope to schedule such a meeting in 2011-2012.

COPE also continued its long interest in sustainability at Ohio State. At its next meeting, we will hear from Kate Bartter, Associate Director of Institute for Energy and the Environment on the university's sustainability initiatives. COPE also supports the efforts of the Faculty Council to encourage the university's commitment to sustainability.

Respectfully Submitted,

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