

Council on the Physical Environment (COPE)

Annual Report for 2014-2015

May 29, 2015

Members

Faculty Council

Tiffany Wild, Chair
David Stetson
Jeff McKee

USG

Joachim Bean
Ryan Laber

University President

Andrew Heckler
Ann Christy

Staff, Steering USAC

Ernest McVay

Non-Voting

Geoff Chatas, Sr. VP Business and Finance/Designee
Amy Burgess, Sr. VP Admin and Planning/Designee
Jennifer Evans-Cowley, Provost/Designee

CGS

Emma Oti

The 2014-2015 Council on the Physical Environment (COPE) participated in a wide range of planning for the university. The committee began meeting in October after a late start of voting and selecting a chair. Tiffany Wild, Assistant Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, was elected chair for the year.

COPE began work in October by re-visiting a project that had begun under the leadership of Jeff McKee and Amy Burgess the previous year involving the production of an active shooter training video. This year the goal was to film the video and get feedback from COPE. An initial version of the video was provided to the committee early in 2015. The committee members provided feedback on content and accessibility issues. Our comments were considered and work continued on editing the video. That work will continue into the 2015-2016 academic year. In addition discussion on how to train faculty and staff with the video is ongoing.

The fall also allowed members to begin discussing the bicycle sharing program that was being planned. All year the committee received updates and was asked for feedback on the planning of the program.

Talk at our fall meetings around accessibility lead to the committee inviting Scott Lissner, ADA Coordinator, to our meeting to discuss concerns with the group. Scott provided insights into how buildings are planned, accessibility issues during construction, and reporting accessibility concerns.

During the spring semester much time was spent discussing the energy management plan with university officials including Scott Potter, Mike Papadakis, and Provost Steinmetz. The

committee was updated on the process and provided feedback on the plan at several stages of the process. This will be an ongoing initiative that 2015-2016 committee members should continue.

Concerns about CABS service and international students practicing driving sessions was brought to the committee by our UGS representatives. From this discussion the committee decided to invite Beth Snoke and Alex Wright from Transportation and Traffic Management to meet with the committee members and discuss issues.

In preparation for appointing new members to COPE the committee discussed possible changes to allow for non-tenure track faculty to serve. Under the direction of Jennifer Evans-Cowley a formal proposal was sent to the University Senate. Specifically stated:

Everyone on campus is impacted by the physical environment, including our faculty, staff and students. The duties and responsibilities of the committee are to “take a broad and encompassing perspective on the physical environment of the university as it affects the academic enterprise and quality of life for the university community.”

At the present time the membership of COPE is restricted and does not allow non-tenure track faculty to serve on the Committee. In order to take a broad and encompassing look at the physical environment it is important to bring in voices from across the campus, including non-tenure track faculty. Below are two examples:

- In the College of Engineering and School of Architecture there are many clinical faculty that have significant knowledge on physical environment issues that could bring value to the committee.
- The health sciences colleges make extensive use of non-tenure track faculty and would benefit from being allowed to participate and bring their perspective on the physical environment, particularly as it relates to issues in the health sciences district.

The proposal requested that 3335-5-48.15 be changed to permit non-tenure track faculty members to serve on the committee.

The committee will work together to continue to address topics and issues that were raised this year. The chair would like to thank all guests that gave their time to speak and meet with COPE members. In addition the chair would like to thank Jennifer Evans-Cowley for keeping us up-to-date each month on campus initiatives and providing the committee opportunities to become more visible in projects on campus. The chair would also like to acknowledge the work of Jeff McKee and Amy Burgess on the active shooter training video and look forward to seeing the finished project. Thank you to all committee members who gave their time each month for the work of this committee.

Respectfully Submitted
Tiffany Wild, Chair, Council on the Physical Environment
Assistant Professor
Department of Teaching and Learning