Physical Environment Committee
Minutes

September 10, 2014
8:15 am – 9:15 am
Lincoln Building Conference Room

MEETING CALLED BY: Ted Curtis & Harvey Sterns – Co-Conveners

TYPE OF MEETING: University Council Committee Meeting

FACILITATORS: Ted Curtis & Harvey Sterns – Co-Conveners

NOTES SUBMITTED BY: Shelly Keller

ABSENT
Deans – Vacant
Ralph Morrone
Shawn Stevens
Rachel Thut

ATTENDEES
Stewart Blessing
Ted Curtis – Co-Convener
Ann Hassenpflug – Vice Chair
Julie Hykes
Shelly Keller – Secretary
Zach Kisor
Chuck Kunsman
Denise Montanari
Harvey Sterns – Co-Convener
William Thelin

INVITED GUESTS: Ralph Morrone

Agenda topics

MINUTE APPROVAL

DISCUSSION: Approval of the 7-8-14 minutes was requested.

CONCLUSIONS: Ann requested the minutes be amended by replacing Department of Education with College of Education. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Julie seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor.
MEETING ITEMS

General Discussion

- Harvey made a motion that Survey Discussion and Central Hower/Zook Update be added to the agenda. Bill seconded the motion and all in attendance were in favor.

- Ted advised he was questioned during the University Council meeting about excessive weeds on campus. Ted explained we are short by about 40 employees in Physical Facilities. The janitorial and grounds divisions are included in that number. Ted further explained he presented a warning to Dr. Scarborough that Capital Planning, which is over Physical Facilities, is short too many employees. That means things start to deteriorate. Buildings and grounds start to deteriorate as soon as they start to be used. We have to maintain those immediately. The Facilities group is just as important as the academic areas on campus. Studies have proven that a decision is made in the first 5-20 minutes of a first visit if UA is still in the running as one of a prospective student’s choices. He jokingly advised that we will all need to pitch in to help and Stacey Moore stated they used to do that at Texas Tech. They would hold a “Campus Clean Up Day” of sorts.

- Ann explained that they (Zook Building Committee) are not being kept in the loop.

- Issue with church and state.
  - There is a religious group using a space at Rec Center on Fridays from 12pm -1pm.
  - Different religious groups have different beliefs depending on the sect.
  - Universities do have relationships with religious groups. Kent State/Newman Center was an example given.
  - As a committee we do not see the justification for the request beyond what is already provided for groups on campus. The committee feels this topic could be a violation of church and state. It is the committee’s recommendation that if this topic is to be discussed further that the University of Akron Legal Department review it next. Ann made a motion and Denise seconded it. Ted abstained from the vote and all others left in attendance were in favor.

- Zook - Central Hower Update
  - Shelly and Bill felt that the Zook issue is now being properly handled. It was their perception that there was a miscommunication/misunderstanding when the Zook project went from “New Construction” to “Renovation”. Those involved did not realize the same plans were being used. Changes in administration were happening as well and that is where Shelly, Bill and Ralph felt the communication was dropped. After meeting with the Zook Building Committee, the three felt the problems are being addressed and communication is happening. They feel the problem that still exists is that some members do not like the answers that they are being given.
  - SharePoint has been the designated point of communication for the Zook Building Committee.
  - Ann made a motion to end the Zook Building Discussion. Bill seconded the motion. Ann stated our purpose is to talk over these issues and does not want to stop discussing them. Shelly’s feelings are that our committee has exhausted this topic and needs to move forward on other issues. We can always revisit new topics but the old Zook topics have been handled to the best of our committee’s abilities. Ann opposed to the vote and all others in attendance were in favor.
General Discussion Continued

- Survey: Ralph is collecting data. The committee would like to send the survey out immediately this semester. Bill asked that we give it a week, due to it being a busy time for faculty, and send the survey out after 9/22.

- Discussion continued about weeding from earlier in the meeting. Ann made a motion that she feels the campus is lovely. Zach seconded the motion. All in attendance were in agreement.

- Bill made a formal recommendation to promote or support a campus clean-up day. Ted would like Physical Facilities involved and would like shirts made for the students that are participating that day. Physical Facilities could provide guidance on whether something is a weed or not. Stewart seconded the motion. Ann abstained and all others in attendance were in favor.

- Shelly will add the presentation to University Council on the SharePoint site and Harvey asked that the presentation be added to the minutes also.

- Stewart added that he feels as a group we are identifying the issues. We can't fix them all, but we are trying to help when we can.

- Chuck made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor.

Next Meetings:

Meetings will be held in the Lincoln Building Third Floor Conference Room.

- October 8, 2014 - 8:15 am
- November 12, 2014 – 8:15 am
- December 17, 2014 – 8:15 am