

Environmental Steering Committee

October 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Facilities Master Plan:

Lance Bryson, Facilities Director, John Poston, and Hank Kocher were in attendance to talk to the committee about the Master Plan. I apologize for not getting John and Hank's credentials and for any spelling errors with their names.

- Master Plan is at end of data gathering phase, beginning of concept phase
- Concerns and suggestions voiced at ESC meeting: energy use, alternative energy sources, coal plant, bio diesel, green facilities, sewage treatment, student awareness, experimental techniques and pace setting, should be ecological leader in region, advertising opportunity, incorporate curricular activities (monitoring buildings, etc.), feasibility, long term sustainability
- University has a specified scope of services for the planners to give ideas on, but this includes energy usage
- Recommendations for design are based on best and most efficient practices
- Plan is not to design specific buildings
- Are getting more detailed in the housing projects
- LEED certifications will be evaluated
- Economically viable environmental practices will be utilized, but the planners are not stressing wild card ideas
- Also looking at geothermal and monitoring suggestions
- California University of Pennsylvania has geothermal, thermostat controlling heating and cooling when the windows are opened to conserve energy, and lowest BTUs of State System schools, these are due to its own Master Plan program similar to what Ship is enacting now
- ESC will be kept up to date as plans progress
- The ESC can also put their concerns into plans to be addressed in future, in other words ideas that are beyond the scope of the Master Plan can be put in writing to be addressed further down the road
- Possible living-learning communities outlined in Master Plan inside dorms (dorms more self-contained, classrooms within dorms), also 350 square feet per bed in the new dorms, dorms will be rebuilt possibly in three years and the old ones will be demolished
- Doubling square footage just on campus so need to look at costs, especially with energy
- Probably can't eliminate fossil fuels, steam plant should be in a central location, and it is also under consideration by the Master Plan
- Predictions made for around 20-25 years for costs of steam plant, it needs maintenance, cogeneration is possible, maybe use natural gas instead
- Also looking at using as much geothermal and solar applications as possible if cost effective
- Coal is the cheapest option, looking at moving hot water instead of steam to reduce cost and wear of piping, also might be able to use recycled products for the piping

- Need two people per shift to run the steam plant on coal, only one if use gas, so might be able to run plant on gas
- Possibly put plant underground and consider getting funding from petroleum companies and other companies to cover costs of more ecological designs
- At some point sustainability results in a tuition hike
- There are plans to put solar panels on Hubert Art Center
- Possibly use solar thermal to heat water or instantaneous water heaters which are energy efficient
- Plan to put in more walking trails and bike areas, want more pedestrian campus, so parking will be further off and less roads around campus encouraging more walking
- Encourage commuters to stay between classes by offering areas to relax, do homework, spend time with friends
- Confined and more compact development utilizing space that already exists instead of grabbing more land
- Can keep ESC involved by attending the Master Plan meetings and stating opinions there
- Can also send Lance Bryson a memo with the must haves for the Master Plan as well as a wish list of items that we'd like to see down the road
- Representatives from the Master Plan can also come back to the ESC meetings
- Possibly put monitors in one building or even better the entire campus so people can see how much energy and money the campus is saving