

## **2010-11 AY Campus Environment Committee Charges and Final Report**

The Campus Environment Committee shall monitor the physical state of the university as it influences the academic mission and report to the Senate on deficiencies and proposed initiatives. The Campus Environment Committee shall consist of eight members, each to be elected by his or her collegial faculty, one member of the educational development faculty elected by that group, three members at large elected by the Academic Senate, and the Vice President of Finance and Administration or his or her delegate (ex-officio, voting).

### **2010-2011 Charges**

- 1. Report on and provide recommendations based on the results of last year's work to the Senate.**

DONE – Report delivered by John Waud May 3, 2010 (see the Academic Senate website – CEC Reports)

- 2. Review ways to improve the working and collaborative environment for the faculty in consultation with the Academic Affairs Committee. On the basis of benchmarking comparison with other universities, report on and, where appropriate, propose possible solutions for ensuring and/or developing appropriate space for the work of faculty including meeting space for Senate committees and a faculty facility to be used for hosting visitors or gathering for functions, social or academic in nature.**

Met with Susan Provenzano, representative from the Academic Affairs Committee, about potential collaboration on space concerns and projects. Discussed the need for a common, institute wide database for tracking space. Todd Pagano, NTID representative to CEC, suggested a database model now used by NTID. The committee explored the database and was impressed by its ability to show and track a wide variety of attributes. Here are the directions for its use:

[www.ntid.rit.edu/CO/SRR](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/CO/SRR)

1. Click on “Event Scheduling Request Form” from the upper left hand corner menu.
2. Enter your DCE username and password (I am unsure if non-NTID members will be allowed access, so this might be as far as you are able to go- in which case, I may have to provide another demonstration in a meeting).
3. You can see the options that are available for selecting a NTID room.
4. At the bottom of the page (above the “comment” box), you can select “check here for list of rooms” to see capacities, equipment, attributes, etc, of the rooms. This link is a bit hard to find, and an improvement would be to make the list active when you are browsing/selecting different rooms at the top of the page.

**RECOMMENDATION: The CEC recommends that the Institute adopt and adapt the NTID model for room inventory purposes. We propose that RIT hire several students to modify the NTID model and create a uniform list of attributes, in consultation with FMS and College Space Committees.**

3. Review the recent Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) Parking Strategy and other environmental initiatives in consultation with FMS. Develop and report to Senate strategies and policy modifications that reflect more comprehensive and intentional efforts to reflect and positively impact the RIT environment.



Clearly, not everyone is on board with this LEV initiative.

CEC had members of the parking committee come and outline the LEV initiative. It is linked to LEEDs and it is located close to LEED project buildings as part of the LEED requirements. There was concern expressed that these dedicated and close-to-campus spots would lead to environmental elitism, where RIT community members who could afford LEV cars would benefit over those who could not afford LEVs. Gil Ong clarified that many vehicles qualify as LEV, not just hybrids (‘tho we suspect the Hummer is not on that list). Anyone interested in the LEV spots can contact the transportation office and they will let them know if their car qualifies. We suggested Transportation look into publishing a list of vehicles, but apparently there are several lists to choose from, and transport is looking into this, leaning towards the EPA list.

We also asked for an update on the Green Ride Program, which RIT is partnering on with the Genesee Transport Council (GTC) to promote carpooling and ride shares for our commuter population. The following is from Randy Vercauteren inTransportation:

This is the latest that we received from GTC (see below). I received this information on March 2, 2011. Gil Ong is the representative from RIT attending the meetings and making sure that the functionality is what we need with the employer/group portal.

Concerning Zipcar or some other car share program, we are very much in favor of having it at RIT again and are still trying to get everyone on board from a risk management and financial standpoint. When we lost Flex Car, the problem with these other companies (ZIPCAR, Hertz car share, Enterprize car share) is the insurance coverage for 18-20 year olds, it is state minimum of \$25K instead of the \$300K that 21 + receive. I think we will eventually get it and it is on our list of actions that could help with carbon reduction that was submitted by Witold Bujak.

Quote from GTC -

I've been asked about the status of the Commuter Choice Program and wanted to pass this brief update to you – and to let you know that the Consultant will provide a more detailed update in the next week to 10 days.

- The consultant has integrated the GTC bicycle ratings into the software, and is currently working to integrate the transit functionality.
- The consultant is drafting a technical memorandum to address the issues that were brought up at the kick-off meeting, including the multiple-user type feature.
- A technical memorandum is being drafted to describe the air quality benefits calculation methodology.
- Related to the second bullet, the consultant is working to make sure that (if desired) students and faculty/staff users of the rideshare system could be kept separate. This has been explored as a user-type feature and consideration is being given to facilitating separate sites for students and faculty/staff under the umbrella of the site administrator.
- The goal at this time is to get the site up and running as quickly as possible especially considering that gasoline prices may well be on a continued upward trend. We're looking to Memorial Day, but that's tentative at this point.

We continue to work on this charge and are particularly interested in ways that RIT can offset carbon from RIT-related travel and other energy use. This is linked to the Institute's goals of becoming carbon neutral, as required by the Presidents Climate Commitment. Witold Bujak came and gave us a presentation covering RIT's carbon offsets from 2009. Work to date has focused on emissions from RIT infrastructure, with little attention given to RIT's natural environment or other carbon reduction opportunities. One possibility we discussed would be planting a large number of trees out near the conservation wetlands area to use as carbon credits and to offset RIT emissions. This would be a great student project, and students in the RIT Environmental Science Program have conducted some pilot studies regarding forest biomass inventories and carbon sequestration.

We also started to discuss ways of encouraging more environmentally friendly SWAG, such as offering useful items (memory sticks), setting up donation areas for items like school supplies (then donating to needy schools), and native seeds and plants. We will continue working on this charge in 2011-2012.

- 4. Carry forward from last year: In consultation with Dr. Destler, create a team to write a proposal which would seek to fund extramurally and implement the Campus environmental Coordinator position.**

Enid Cardinal was hired after a national search and started this Fall. CEC Reps on the Search Committee – Mark Coleman (search committee chair), J. Scott Hawker, Rebecca Johnson, Jan Reich, Karl Korfmacher. Enid is now on the CEC and chairs the Sustainable Practices Committee, which includes CEC members Karl Korfmacher and Jan Reich. These two committees expect to collaborate on many issues involving campus sustainability.

- 5. After Senate's approval, forward the following recommendation from the committee's work last year to the Provost and President.**

*We recommend that all buildings be equipped with individual power meters or usage monitoring units. Many buildings already have individual meters, but some do not. Since many buildings already have individual meters, we further recommend that buildings be subdivided into zones. It may be desirable to use a small number of buildings in a pilot study for the rest of campus. We believe that the information generated will help identify places that power usage is not being effectively managed. With this information in hand, RIT will be able to take steps to reduce power consumption and reduce its contribution to climate change.*

We believe this charge should be a task of the Sustainable Practices Committee. Not sure if the Senate ultimately approved this or not. President Destler was going to initiate this project, but the CEC was unsure who would implement the installation, monitoring, and data collection and dissemination.

Respectfully submitted to the Academic Senate on September 22, 2011 by Dr. Karl Korfmacher, 2010-11 chair of the CEC.