

University of Houston Faculty Advisory Committee on Purchasing and Plant Operations

ANNUAL REPORT

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1. General Information

- A. The committee has met eight times between October 3, 2007 and August 20, 2008.
- B. The committee has focused most of its discussions on the physical environment rather than purchasing issues.

2. Committee Recommendations:

- A. Provide mechanisms for faculty and staff to provide input on general maintenance issues thru:
 - 1.) Set up a facilities web page. Committee provided Dilip with criteria for web page interface to be considered.
 - 2.) Set up annual review and walk thru of buildings. Committee provided Dilip annual walk thru form.
 - 3.) Need to prioritize general maintenance for areas that visitor and prospective faculty and students see.
- B. Provide mechanism for faculty to gain information regarding campus construction projects.
 - 1.) Construction site signs have been in place.
 - 2.) Web site could list updated information, design meetings, etc. so decisions are more transparent.
- C. Develop a more sustainable campus in order to increase recruitment of students and faculty.
 - 1.) Sign a wind energy contract for electrical energy. This could be a huge promotional opportunity.
 - 2.) Develop ways to decrease student transportation costs:
 - a.) coordinate transportation efforts with metro (bus stops that are more welcoming, better bus service)
 - b.) other course delivery methods and schedules, including summer courses and distance learning
 - c.) increase housing on or near campus
 - d.) campus bike program (Rice University is looking in to this)
 - e.) work with student government
 - 3.) Investigate other sustainable issues through these sources:
 - a.) Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education: <http://www.aashe.org/index.php>
 - b.) New Building Institute: <http://www.newbuildings.org/>
 - c.) U. S. Green Building Council: <http://www.usgbc.org/>
 - d.) AIA's 2030 Challenge: <http://www.architecture2030.org/>
 - e.) TED video: <http://www.ted.com/talks/view/id/212>
 - f.) Sustainability Training Assessment Rating System - http://www.aashe.org/stars/documents/STARS_0.5.pdf
 - 4.) Investigate Programs at other Universities:
 - a.) Greenhouse gas inventory of campus
 - b.) recycling, dorm to dorm competitions, at sporting events, serve as depot for faculty, staff, students
 - c.) solar installation, solar covered parking (some will install for free if they get energy savings)
 - d.) sustainable purchasing: cleaning supplies, office supplies, paper with recycled content
 - e.) fundraising – alumni are very interested in supporting sustainability
 - f.) green grants for small projects/studies on campus, can be incorporated into curriculum