



Committee Report Form | YSU

COVER SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO ALL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Date 3/21/2022 Senate Meeting Date 4/6/2022 Report # (Senate Use Only)

Intended Action: Informational Senate Vote Consultative/Advisory

Name of Committee Submitting Report: Design Committee

Committee Status: (elected chartered, appointed chartered, ad hoc, etc.) Ad hoc

Names of Committee Members

Johnathan Farris (CCA, Chair), Dawna Cerney (BCLASS), Frank Daloise (BHHS), Carmen Panaitof (CSTEM), Michael Pontikos (WCBA), Dylan Straley (student), Joy P. Byers (Admin), John Hyden (Admin), Bill Spencer (Admin)

Elected Members

Appointed Members

Please write a brief summary of the report the Committee is submitting to the Senate:

The Design Committee met on February 25 with city planner Hunter Morrison and on March 18 with guest David Ewing (Assoc. Director of Grounds). The resulting deliberations have produced concrete recommendations to be presented to Senate for approval. If the Senate approves, the committee recommendations will be presented to the President and Board of Trustees of YSU.

If substantive changes in your committee recommendation are made from the floor, would the committee prefer that the matter be sent back to committee for further consideration? Yes.

Introduction and Rationale

Type introduction and rationale here. See below under recommendation.

The Design Committee harnesses the abilities of faculty members to best utilize and improve our university's campus, and broader impact on the built and natural environment. The committee approaches the university's physical resources with intent to make the most of and improve upon facilities. Aesthetics, environmental concerns, and efficiencies are all under consideration.

Revised Policy/Policies (when applicable)

Type revised policy here

Recommendation

Type recommendation here.

Four initial meetings of the design committee have produced recommendations to be presented to the Senate for approval, and if approved, forwarded to the Board of Trustees and University President. These initial recommendations have focused on two distinct areas, improving campus connectivity with and gateways from surrounding areas (particularly Downtown and the North Side) and moving grounds design and maintenance towards greater resource efficiency and environmental benefit.

The committee recommends the following with regards to campus linkage with its surroundings:

1) Pursue with local and state government partners funds earmarked in the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to heal the damage done by highways to obtain air rights and construct improvements along the campus boundary with and crossing of U.S. Route 422. This would in particular allow for the widening of the Fifth Avenue Bridge so that it might be maintained in the winter to enable pedestrian traffic and the construction of a land bridge across the highway along Elm Street in order to join Cafaro House to the rest of campus with greenspace. This might also include generally improving appearances at the on-ramps that are the primary approaches to campus.

2) Design and implement an improved pedestrian connection on Elm Street to connect campus to downtown in collaboration with the city government.

3) Explore no-build ways of creating visual and traffic linkages between campus and downtown. Two specific paths are recommended.

A. Collaborate with the city and commercial and religious entities (particularly the churches on Wood Street) to develop a cohesive and aesthetically sensitive lighting scheme in the evenings that would increase visual linkage between downtown and campus, highlight structures of historical and aesthetic interest, and enhance the feeling of safety of the environs.

B. The other proposal would be to develop a tour embedded in a cellphone based application that would guide visitors around downtown, campus, and surroundings, enabling them to feel informed about and comfortable in the area. This might in part be informational and in part entertaining, featuring audio/musical (and if resources allow visual) experiences, potentially generated by YSU students. Discussion is already underway in Cliffe College about the feasibility of generating this in-house.

The committee recommends the following with regards to campus grounds:

1) Set the goal of being designated a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. This involves providing birds, insects, and other wild species with food, water, cover, and places to raise young, as well as developing sustainable practices.

2) Become more sustainable by reducing the amount of mechanical mowing required on campus. Explore with the city the possibility of ordinance exemption to experiment with swaths of wild meadow. If or where this might not be feasible, expand beds planted with native flowers and shrubs. Assess where additional native trees might be planted, and which species will be most resilient to climate change and invasive diseases. Where lawn must be maintained, incorporate clovers and grasses which seldom require mowing.

3) Continue eliminating invasive non-native species. This task has already been commenced with plans to eliminate the euonymous in front of the stadium, but should spread to other areas of concern.