Summary

The business of the Committee on Physical Resources and Planning (PRP) for AY 2006-7 has primarily been devoted to project initiatives for enhancing the quality of the campus’ physical appearance. These initiatives emanated both from the Chancellor’s office and other agents of the administration as well as from the Committee on Physical Resources and Planning itself, and were the subject of the meetings listed below in the Schedule of Meetings. These projects are described as follows, and communicated both to members of the PRP and pertinent administrators. These initiatives were also the subject of a meeting between the Chair and the President of the ASUCR, Holly Kim on Thursday, 11 January 2007.

Memo of Initiatives Proposed by Chair: 6 October 2006
1. Pilot projects re benches, tables general beautification a. HMNSS east and west court yards:
   i. installation of new style park benches (specs to be supplied)
   ii. replacement of grass in quad areas with crushed granite w/ stabilizer surface

b. Spieth-BioSciences quad (SBQ)
   i. former tree planter to be reconceived as green area/fountain, etc
   ii. installation of new style park benches (specs to be supplied) in north quad area -- Spieth Quad (SQ)
   iii. arrangements (purchase if necessary) for an attractive, mobile lunch wagon/refeshments cart facility for casual lunch, snacks and refreshment to serve the SBQ as a gathering place of the SBQ and new Genomics building -- something like the former Jonathan's?
   iv. relocation of bike racks from traffic areas to perimeter of covered area between SQ and former tree planter

2. Engineering Arroyo 'Glen' (EAG)
   Concept: EAG to be reconceived as a California Sycamore grove, suitable for gatherings, outdoor luncheons and other small to modest sized open air events as well as a general 'park' area that would serve, among other clients, the new Engineering building to be built planned across campus ring road on former sports/recreation field.

   i. Site should add sufficient sycamores to provide modicum of shade without compromising present usage by current departmental users -- perhaps 10 - 12 mature Cal Sycamores, planted apart at generous intervals and pruned to be trimmed to provide high canopy. Generous spacing would facilitate usage for open air events, with shade in hotter months, and sun in cooler seasons to sustain grass growth.
   ii. installation of new style park benches (specs to be supplied).

First Addendum to Memo of 6 October 2006:
Tentative Resolutions re pilot projects of Creating Park-like Settings Initiative from the PRP after recent meeting/tour:

HMNSS:
1. (as mentioned earlier) New paved areas replacing grass areas should be 'seeded' with stream stones or other embedded decorative rock. Purpose: to discourage all wheeled skateboard, rollerblade/skate use.

2. All Kumquat trees opposite HMNSS 1500 should be replaced with trees that might provide shade canopies, such as the flowering tree just east of the wing of HMNSS housing the Media Library. This would not only provide shade, but also create an 'allee' or row effect of the same species of trees leading right to Hinderaker.

Second Addendum to Memo of 6 October 2006:
A. Re HMNSS
1. In HMNSS west grass area, I think we should plant two high canopied shade trees (perhaps London Planes) to balance to the two mature trees already in the HMNSS east grass area (enclosed by 1400 and 1600 wings).

2. Both grass areas would then be replaced by a hard surface of Decomposed Granite with Stabilizer. This would eliminate the problem of maintaining the growth of grass in shaded areas that Mike Miller made clear to us.

3. Benches (I am getting terrific online info about recycled plastic ones...) then could be placed in various arrays, all anchored in concrete for security,

   For instance, each tree might be ringed by benches either (1) facing outward from the trunk. This would have the effect of giving the impression of the trees growing up and out of the ring of benches. (2) In addition, or as an alternative, benches could also be placed along the perimeter partially to enclose the quads in question. Imagine, for instance, some benches placed at right angles at each corner of the quads. These would define the space but allow easy movement in, out and across the quad.

4. Warning: I am not sure of the irrigation scheme for these areas, but we will need to be sure (1) that they are well drained and do not flood either during irrigation or normal rainfall, and (2) that the trees get the water they need.

B. Re SBQ -- Spieth-Bio quad
1. The present disused tree planter, properly landscaped and reconceived as a water area, might serve as a natural rendez-vous place for folks in transit in that part of the campus to meet on their way to a more permanent destination: "I'll meet you at the SBQ 'fountain,' Al! OK?" That kind of thing.

2. Concepts for the 'fountain'
   a. The retaining wall needs to be high enough so that people could conveniently sit on the sill
while they wait to meet someone.

b. In the 'dead' area, we need "life".
   i. Thus, I think whatever waterworks we have in the SBQ, they must be fairly sonorous to
      bring a sense of 'living' water to that barren space -- something bubbling might work, since it
      would not risk becoming Old Faithfull and soaking the passersby.
   ii. Since the disused tree planter is relatively small in area, I suggest a Water Garden theme for
      it -- a combination of gurgling waters and soft, leafy by fairly tall water-loving plants -- banana
      or pseudo-banana -- to create a mini-swamp effect. This, I think would be just the thing to put
      some life into a place defined by the Life Sciences!
   iii. If needs be, the planter area could be somewhat, modestly, enlarged.

3. Instead of a mobile 'Jonathan's' type lunch/coffee cart, perhaps it would make more sense to
   do a permanent refreshment kiosk, like Hinderaker's "Ivan's" against a wall in one of the covered
   spaces?

PS re 'fountains' Why not SOLAR powered waterworks? We have two of these here at my home,
one even comes disguised as a birdbath!

PPS re 'birdbaths': What is the song bird situation on our campus. Let's also become a habitat for
them in the process of adding our waterworks.

Progress:

At our meeting with Assistant VC Miller (14 Feb 2007), progress on these initiatives
formed the basis of our committee’s business. While we have not yet seen any tangible results
of our work in conceiving these initiatives, we trust that our work and time will have been
proven well spent. We have been assured, for example, that the casual dining and food service
for the Spieth-Bio-sciences quad, similar to Ivan’s at Hinderaker can be realized in short order.

Schedule of Meetings

Meeting of 1 October 2006
Campus tour of potential renovation and physical improvement projects
Chancellor Cordova, Vice Chancellors Diaz and Miller, Profs Cogswell and Strenski

Meeting of 16 November 2006
Agenda: Walking tour for the members of PRP of CHASS and Speith-Genomics projects
Profs Strenski and Parker
Meeting of 14 Feb 2007

Agenda:
1. Mike Miller, Assistant VC, Facilities
   discussion of the status of various pilot projects and initiatives
2. PRP initiatives on Spieth-Bio quad and HMNSS quad
3. Articulation of Relation among Various Senate and Administration Committees and Interests
   Possible visit from Gretchen Bolar (or Tim Ralston) and Jim Isermann (Campus Art Committee)

Full committee in attendance

One final meeting before the end of the AY2006-7 is planned to monitor progress on our initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Yours faithfully,

Professor Ivan Strenski, Chair,
Committee on Physical Resources and Planning

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