

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
Fresno, California 93740

**Campus Planning Committee**

Minutes

February 14, 2014

**Members**

Present: Amy Armstrong, Robert Boyd, Charles Boyer, John Bushoven, Yolanda Doub, Rick Finden, Paul Halajian, Jeff Macon, Kathleen Moffitt, Dennis Nef, Fred Nelson, Jan Parten, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Mike Tillman, Richard Vaillancour, Bernie Vinovski, Gary Wilson and William Wright

Absent: Deborah Adishian-Astone, Saeed Attar, Mike Coles, Hongwei Dong, Brad Hyatt, Lisa Kao, John Kriebs, Patrick Newell, Mikey Sanchez and Meaghan Smith (C.O.)

Guests: Shirley Armbruster, Devon Fullner, Lori Pardi and Colleen Torgerson

Meeting called to order at 8:03 a.m.

1. Approval of the February 14, 2014, agenda. The agenda was corrected as follows: item 2 should read: Approval of the December 13, 2013, meeting minutes; and item 9 should list Mr. Gary Wilson as the presenter. It was MSC to approve the February 14, 2014, agenda as amended.
2. Approval of the minutes. It was MSC to approve the minutes of November 15, 2013.
3. Arboretum Task Force Recommendation (*Action*) – Colleen Torgerson

In the 2013 spring semester, the President asked the Campus Planning Committee (CPC) to revisit the issue of the arboretum on campus and the status of maintaining a certified arboretum that ties back to the campus' sustainability, as well as review the operational items and costs associated with it.

Chair Matson, with input and recommendations from the CPC, appointed the Arboretum Task Force in the summer 2013 with Dr. Jim Prince as chair. Dr. Prince left the university late that summer. Dr. Colleen Torgerson agreed to chair the task force and assumed the responsibility on September 2013.

Dr. Torgerson distributed the committee's report, highlighted the main points, and walked CPC members through the six (6) recommendations.

**The Charge**

- Research and develop recommendations on the sustainability of a campus arboretum using the Morton Register of Arboreta as a guideline for accreditation;
- Provide a recommendation on an arboretum model;
- Consult with campus constituents to solicit input about the expectations for the sustainability of an arboretum;
- Examine and evaluate the appropriate arboretum footprint; and
- Recommend a department and/or position(s) that should be responsible for maintaining accreditation standards for a campus arboretum.

**Consultation**

- Vice President for Administration Cynthia Matson
- Provost Andrew Hoff
- Associate VP for Facilities Management Robert Boyd provided significant input and was at the table for a great portion of the process
- University Police Chief David Huerta
- Parking Administrator Amy Armstrong

- University Farm Manager Mike Mosinski
- Effort was made to have student representation at the table; however, due to lack of attendance, the recommendation was shared and discussed with Student Body President Moses Menchaca.
- Presentation was made to the Sustainability Group during the summer.
- Tree Fresno representatives John Valentino and Lee Ayres attended the meetings as well.

Benefits/Why keep the Arboretum

- venue for students and coursework to be utilized across schools/colleges and courses
- beautiful landscape and needed shade on campus
- community resource for tours
- potential source for development support
- recruitment feature for students, faculty and staff
- opportunity to grow in our involvement with potential plant and landscape organizations

Recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** Develop and implement an Arboretum Plan to update the Tree Plan including: tree care policy, protection and preservation, damage assessment, prohibited practices, communication, advisory committee, Curator, accountable grounds position, collections policy and goals.

**Recommendation 2:** Establish the Arboretum footprint as the contiguous campus excluding parking and agricultural land.

**Recommendation 3:** Designate an academic with both knowledge and experience to serve as Curator for a three-year term. The Curator shall be a faculty member on tenure track with a terminal degree in a related biological discipline. Following advertisement of the role, Deans may nominate faculty for the assignment; however, the final recommendation will be made by the Provost. The Curator will be responsible for the accreditation using the Morton Register – Level 1 (Level 1 requires 25 species which Fresno State far exceeds). S/he will submit the Tree Plan from Recommendation 1 and serve as a member of the committee. The faculty member would have a one three-unit course backfill. The Provost has committed to the cost of that backfill which is approximately \$10,000 per year.

**Recommendation 4:** Utilize the position of Grounds Manager (to be hired) to be the primary contact regarding the care of the Arboretum. The Grounds Manager will chair the committee and contract for the hiring of an Arborist, if needed.

**Recommendation 5:** Reactivate the Arboretum Committee as an advisory committee to the Campus Planning Committee (CPC), as represented by many members on the Task Force as well as community plant societies and campus police.

**Recommendation 6:** The administrative structure for Arboretum decisions which includes the President, Director (Vice-President for Administration), Campus Planning Committee, Arboretum Committee, Curator & Grounds Manager, and Arborist (to be contracted, if needed).

Dr. Torgerson thanked and acknowledged the task force members: Stephen Austin, John Bushoven, John Constable, Calliope Correia, Yolanda Doub, Rick Finden, Paul Halajian, Kathleen Moffitt and Rich Vaillancour.

Two additional considerations were included in the report: A) Assign a resource development staff member to work with the Arboretum Curator and Committee to provide support for a development plan to support both care and accreditation of the Arboretum; B) Hire two additional gardening specialists in Plant Operations to assist in the general care of the campus and attention needed to assess and clean up needs that have been deferred. Additional funds of approximately \$80,000 would be necessary to fund this consideration. Dr. Torgerson clarified that these two considerations were not crucial or part of the main recommendation.

Dr. Boyer commented that there is a broader need to address the overall planning for the landscape of the university, beyond just the Arboretum, particularly as it pertains to improving the appearance of Barstow Avenue. Mr. Boyd shared that the university is looking at a Master Plan study of Barstow due to the recent developments, planned developments, needed upgrades, and changes in the utilization of this area, as well as traffic coming onto the campus from this point. The landscape plays a vital part in all this planning.

There was additional discussion regarding the proposed structure for the new Arboretum Committee and the potential benefits that would result from the added representatives.

Mr. Boyd moved to accept the recommendation of the Arboretum Task Force as presented and to forward the proposal to the President for consideration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Moffitt. Dr. Bushoven commented that the university lost its Tree Campus USA status and this proposal comes at a great time so as to help the university address the requirements of this designation. There were no additional comments or discussion. Motion carried without opposition or abstention.

Based on the CPC's support of the recommendation, Chair Matson will present the document to the President and Cabinet for consideration.

4. Tree Removal along Barstow Avenue (*Informational*) – Robert Boyd

Mr. Boyd presented information regarding some of the upcoming work that needs to be completed as part of a bicycle path expansion that resulted from a grant that was received from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District as shared by Ms. Armstrong during the January 15, 2013, meeting. The university is ready to move forward with expanding the bike lane along Barstow Avenue from Campus Drive all the way to the Dairy/Sheep Unit area. There are some areas where the bike lane will transition onto the sidewalk. The work involves repaving and expanding walkways along Barstow Avenue, specifically in front of the University Police Department and the walkway just north of the Softball Diamond closest to Cedar Ave.

The location in front of the Police Department calls for removal of trees so that the walkway can be expanded. The trees that were recently planted will be moved/set back (further south). The plan is to move the trees while they are dormant so as to allow sufficient room for the expansion. The three (3) mature Modesto Ash trees will be removed and have been replaced with Chinese Pistache. The Modesto Ash trees are in the 40 plus year range and present risks and maintenance problems.

The walkway in front of the Softball Diamond has an uneven surface and is in need of repair. The plan is to remove the remaining Modesto Ash trees from this location and re-do the walkway during the summer 2014. The trees will be replaced by planting Chinese Pistache.

There was significant discussion regarding the need to remove the large trees, the location in front of the Police Department and its proximity to the parking lot, the type of tree (e.g. Chinese Pistache) that is being planted, the use of root barriers, etc.

Chair Matson asked if the area is used for some of the science courses. Dr. Bushoven does not believe that is the case, but it is part of the Arboretum walk and enhancing the safety of that walkway would encourage more use.

Chair Matson acknowledged that the item was listed as informational on the agenda but presented the opportunity to take action on this item, given the visibility of the location and concern that may come from the campus community and community in general. Based on additional input from committee members regarding the potential campus community interest in the removal of the trees, she further requested that Ms. Armstrong work with Ms. Shirley Armstrong in getting this communication written and out to the community in advance of the work commencing and reminded committee members of their charge in getting this information out to their respective colleges/schools.

Dr. Bushoven moved to approve the removal of the Modesto Ash trees as proposed by Facilities Management and that they are replaced with more appropriate trees, a minimum of 24" box, for the areas mentioned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson. There were no additional comments. Motion carried without opposition or abstention.

5. Water Conservation Project (*Informational*) – Robert Boyd

Mr. Boyd announced that in light of the Governor's notice and call on Californians to reduce their water usage by 20 percent, state agencies are called to implement water-use reduction plans for all state facilities. Facilities Management has been meeting with individuals on campus with water-use expertise including University Farm representatives, Dr. David Zoldoske from the California Water Institute and others to discuss ways in which the university can better manage this resource.

As part of this plan, the university is checking and verifying all systems in regards to water management: These include: checking sprinklers making sure they are working correctly; implementing new water management hardware/technology where feasible and possible; implementing a more aggressive plan for aeration to help prohibit run off; application of gypsum to help the soil absorb the water more effectively; and filling low swell areas to help address the perception that water is being wasted. Other projects, that will have the greatest impact on the university's water use, involve improvements to water well #5, and planned improvements to well #2 and well #3.

We have two main domestic wells. Well #6, located by the Student Recreation Center, this is our main well and produces about 1,500 gallons per minute. This well is backed up by Well #5 which is located over by the Bulldog Stadium and feeds back to the main campus. Well #5 has been improved to produce about 1,200 gallons per minutes and upgraded with a 10 inch pipeline. By enhancing Well #5 to provide at least 1,000 gallons per minute, the university is able to more effectively irrigate the campus during the night. This project is just winding up and is making real progress.

As presented during the Administrative Roundtable meeting recently, one of the biggest challenges for the university is irrigating the campus farm. Seventy (70) percent of the farm is irrigated with surface water. Presently, this water source is very low and limited.

As a result, earlier in the year, the university explored some creative ideas in terms of this water supply. Well #2, located right outside of the area designated for the Jordan Research Center, is a domestic well capable of providing 800 gallons per minute. It is fully developed but was removed from operation a few years ago due to its location and the amount of nitrate found in the water.

Working with Dr. David Zoldoske, Dean Charles Boyer, Mr. Mike Mosinski, Ms. Debbie Astone and others, the university obtained a grant (about \$120,000) that will allow the university to install a pipeline which extends from the well to the ponding basin located at Bullard and Willow and help the campus address the following items:

1. It will allow us to pump Well #2 and get that water out of the aquifer and into the ponding basin which will help us irrigate the 1,500 acres of farm land.
2. According to an engineer with the Fresno County Flood Control District, the basins located north of the Save Mart Center and by the Campus Pointe development are not large enough to address a large flood, should one occur. In the event of a flood this pump and the new pipelines will provide the ability to pump water out of these basins and spread it over 1,500 acres of farm land.

A similar project is being proposed for Well #3 located near parking lot P20 (formerly lot Q). It is a fully domestic well that never pump tested because of turbidity, making it a very difficult and costly filtering process. The plan is to get this water out of the aquifer and into the ponding basin just north of Bullard Avenue along Cedar. The university is close to funding this project.

Chair Matson suggested putting together a collateral piece on what the university is doing to conserve water as well as communicate the campus' sustainability efforts in this area. She suggested Facilities Management work with University Communications in this effort.

There was discussion regarding the safety of the water for irrigation purposes, working with Civil Engineering to further review/measure water use throughout the campus; highlighting the use of purple pipe and other methods the campus is using to increase water-use efficiency.

6. Electrical Infrastructure Project (*Informational*) – Robert Boyd

Mr. Boyd reported that the project is moving along well. The design phase is about 60% complete. This will be a 50-year solution for the campus. Facilities Management is very excited about this project and the possibilities it presents in being able to address the needs of the campus more timely and effectively. The project team expects to break ground in July or August on 2014. It will take anywhere from 16-18 months to implement. Mr. Devon Fullner, the project manager, will present additional details (specifically regarding enclosure types, routes, etc.) about this project at the CPC meeting in April or May.

7. Campus Protocols for Power Outage (*Informational*) – Amy Armstrong

The power outage in December 2013 revealed that there is a need to better educate the campus community on what actions to take in the event of a power outage. Ms. Armstrong distributed a draft flyer that contained this information and solicited the committee's input in regards to the information provided in the flyer.

The flyer is a quick reference guide that aims to better prepare and assist faculty and staff in dealing with a power outage. It outlines actions that should be taken if a power outage were to occur during the day, and the actions that should be taken if a power outage occurred at night. Chair Matson asked the committee to evaluate whether the flyer is written in a way that makes sense will help faculty feel more informed.

The committee made a number of suggestions in terms of art used in the flyer, language used in the headers, clarity in the instructions, avoiding use of the elevators, and adding language pertinent to evacuation and what to do should it be necessary to evacuate a building. Dr. Boyer specifically requested that the project team revisit the order of the listed contacts.

Ms. Armbruster added that not updating the main campus website was an oversight during the last power outage and steps have been implemented to ensure that the site provides information and is updated during future incidents.

8. Wayfinding Signage Program (*Update*) – Robert Boyd

The pedestrian landmark and map signage is currently in production, installation will begin in about five to six weeks. Gateway signage is also in production and should be completed in about four to six weeks.

9. Faculty Office/Lab Building (*Update*) – Robert Boyd

This project has been in the works for about two years. The project is in the final stages of the plan check phase, which started in September 2013. Bernards is the contractor for this project. The hope is to be able to bid all the sub-trade contractors soon, have a maximum price by mid-April and break ground in late April or early May 2014.

10. Other Business – None

Meeting Adjourned at 9:24 a.m.