

**COUNCIL ON CAMPUS PLANNING AND USAGE (CCPU)  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE  
2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Council Members:** Ray Dietz, Brett Eberhardt, Jeff Laurent (Recorder; also served as Chair while Lindemann was on medical leave for 6 weeks), Dana Lindemann (Chair), David Rohall, and Paul Schlag

**Ex Officio Members:** Scott Coker, Director of Facilities Management and Chair of the Master Plan Implementation Team; Eric Ribbens, Landscape Liaison to the Strategic Planning Committee

**Meeting Dates:** Monthly meetings were held the first Friday of each month, from 2:30 pm until 3:30 pm. Meetings occurred on September 7, October 5, November 2, and December 7 of 2012, and on February 1, March 1, April 5, and May 3 of 2013.

**Summary of Meeting Activities**

The CCPU met monthly during the 2012-2013 school year. The primary goals of the committee were to (1) provide a faculty voice for campus projects, (2) continue to support effective communication between university administration and faculty, and (3) address usage and planning concerns brought to our attention. At our meetings, regular updates on major campus projects and planning, and campus landscaping, were presented by ad-hoc members Scott Coker and Eric Ribbens, respectively.

(1) During the fall 2012 semester, CCPU continued to serve as a faculty voice in the process of updating the campus master plan. Members provided input through regular CCPU meetings as well as meetings with consultants from SmithGroup JJR. CCPU members supported the final updated master plan, which was approved by the WIU Board of Trustees in December, 2012.

CCPU members also had opportunities to learn about and provide feedback (as was appropriate) on other campus projects, including the new welcome/WIU signage (project to be completed fall 2013), the University Union renovation, and the construction of new steam lines along University Avenue.

(2) Communication between faculty and Facilities Management was valuable. Scott Coker, Director of the WIU Facilities Management, continued to attend our meetings and provide information that led to a better understanding of how Facilities Management staff work. We were afforded an opportunity to provide feedback on an important Facilities Management memo prior to distribution. Continued from last year, we discussed suggestions for improvements in communication and agreed on the importance of good communication between Facilities Management and faculty. Among the most significant changes will be to establish new building representatives who are nearly always in the building and available (such as a department office manager, as opposed to a department chair who may often be unavailable due to meetings).

(3) Over the course of the year, members discussed various issues relayed to them by the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate. They are as follows:

{Morgan Hall Petition} In brief, a petition signed by more than 30 faculty members sought to express concerns regarding the negative impact of hot temperatures within Morgan Hall, especially during the week of final exams. In addition, the petitioners requested a new policy be put into action for which the air conditioning is turned on in Morgan Hall by the beginning of finals week each spring semester. This issue was discussed extensively throughout the school year, at both CCPU meetings as well as several Faculty Senate meetings.

CCPU members noted two concerns. First, that there were communication issues regarding the broken system last spring, and second, that to our knowledge, the typical procedure for addressing building-related complaints wasn't followed (i.e., first contacting the building representative who would then work with Facilities Management staff). Following discussion, CCPU members did not support the request in the petition to have a standing policy that the air conditioner in Morgan Hall get turned on prior to finals week each spring. After relaying this information to the Executive Council, CCPU and Facilities Management were asked to address continued concerns at a Faculty Senate Meeting.

As well as a CCPU representative, Scott Coker was able to attend Faculty Senate meetings to address questions related to this issue. After these meetings, CCPU members continued to have concerns about asking Facilities Management to change its policy for when to turn on air conditioning systems. This stemmed primarily from the limitations and issues associated with aging systems and two-pipe systems, the former of which is sensitive to outside temperature changes, and the latter presenting a labor/time issue. Facilities Management has committed to (and already implemented) better communication with faculty and staff and is researching policies implemented at our peer institutions with similar systems.

{Intentional Spaces} CCPU received a concern regarding the lack of designated spaces that those on campus may use for a variety of private actions, including meditation and prayer. These actions, which can include but are not necessarily associated with religion practices, require small, private spaces where a light may be turned off and the person not disturbed. The request followed an awkward exchange in which two library faculty unknowingly walked in on a woman who was praying and had removed clothing items normally worn in front of men. Specifically, Senator Thompson requested that CCPU address the following: (1) do CCPU members see a need for these intentional spaces on campus, and (2) if yes, how could the university community go about establishing these spaces?

In our discussion, CCPU members agreed that yes, there should be private, quiet spaces available for those in the campus community to use. Due to space concerns, it was agreed that a good solution is to use rooms already readily available for temporary use, and in particular, these spaces would be ideally located in general use areas (such as the library and multicultural center). There was consensus that these rooms did not need a reservation, but instead have some way to indicate that the room is currently in use (such as a sign that can be placed on the door or flipped over to indicate the room is in use, even if the lights are turned off). After further communication with the Executive Council, CCPU has been asked to specifically identify which space on campus could be used for these purposes. Facilities Management is currently documenting all spaces on campus, and when complete, CCPU will identify spaces to be used. In addition, CCPU is working with Andrea Henderson, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, to determine the appropriateness of having lactation rooms serve as shared spaces.

{Texting while Driving} CCPU was charged with providing guidance on the topic of texting while driving on campus. Lt. Clark, from the Office of Public Safety, attended the April, 2013 CCPU meeting. Because texting/driving while distracted is second only to DUI on the National Transportation Safety Board's priority list, more monies may become available to address the problem. Lt. Clark noted that often this funding isn't available to universities, but that the City of Macomb could pursue such funding.

With respect to Illinois, we are one of 39 states with a no texting law. Currently, cell phone use while driving is legal, except in K-12 school zones, construction zones, or within 500 feet of an emergency scene; as of August 16, all hand-held phones are banned while driving in Illinois effective January 1, 2014. With respect to WIU, Lt. Clark reported that there have been no crashes on campus attributed to texting while driving. Because of funding limitations, OPS has targeted speeding on University Drive and DUI as priorities. Lt. Clark noted that there is a box on the Illinois accident report for texting as a contributory cause, allowing tracking of the behavior. Also, Lt. Clark noted that texting behavior often is difficult to document because other behaviors (e.g., tuning a car radio) involve similar movements.

Proactive approaches to address the issue of texting while driving on campus were discussed by Lt. Clark and CCPU. Education seems to be the key. Signage is always good, but can become "white noise" that is ignored. Something that does seem to work fairly well and that is relatively inexpensive are portable signs (like the signs on trailers that indicate drivers' speed sometimes located on campus or by Macomb Jr.-Sr. High School). The sign outside Western Hall also could be used for this purpose. Locating an OPS officer/car near the signage may reinforce the message.

Other educational activities might include adding texting to existing presentations provided by OPS. For example, there is a health and safety component to the new UNIV 100 courses that could involve OPS. Texting while driving might be address as part of that unit. OPS also is involved with freshman orientation. Current information in these presentations does not address texting while driving on campus, but this could be added. Also, Lt. Clark provided a link to downloadable signs from the National Highway Traffic Safety Board that could be reproduced by DPS and placed around campus <<http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-involved/downloads.html>>.

This issue remains in progress. In early fall, 2013, CCPU will document formal recommendations and provide these to the Faculty Senate Executive Council.

### **Leadership, membership, and meetings for 2012-2013**

Jeff Laurent was elected to serve as Chair for the 2013-2014 school year, and a recorder will be elected at the September 2013 meeting. CCPU will continue to meet the first Friday of each month from 2:30 until 3:30 pm. Council members Dana Lindemann and David Rohall have fulfilled their terms and will be replaced by Brian Stone and Bill Thompson. Kelsey Bryant attended the May, 2013 meeting and will continue to serve as Student Government Representative.