

Campus Beautification & Preservation Committee

Report written by: Dr. Kaoutar El Mounadi

(Chair of the committee during Spring 2019 and committee member for 2017-2019)

Description

Makes recommendations as to ways the campus can be beautified both internally and externally. It also solicits the cooperation of all members of the university community in keeping the campus beautiful. Meetings: 3 times/semester.

Current members

Holly Tienken (College of Visual & Performing Arts Representative)
Carrie Nordlund (Graduate Faculty Representative): Acting Chair & current Secretary
Lauren Moss (College of Education Representative)
Brandon Krieg (College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Representative)
Gregory Kaufinger (College of Business Representative)
Tyler Schwab (Professional Staff Representative)
William S. Meeker (Director, Facilities Management designee)
Karen Stanford (Director of University Galleries)
Claudia M Delong (AFSCME Representative)

Projects realized by the committee during fall 2018 & Spring 2019

a. On campus lanternfly eradication

Pennsylvania department of agriculture (PDA) is funding an initiative to eradicate lanternfly pest on campus. Trees of heaven will be cut down and some left to be used as trap trees and treated with systemic insecticide. These trees will be marked with red tree marking paint. In order to ensure that this plan does not affect research projects of biology faculty, a meeting was organized during which PDA contactors and biology faculty discussed which areas would be suitable for the eradication plan and which would not be.

b. Other projects

1. Detention basin outside of Grim and Boehm: Woody plants surrounding the basin area between Grim and Boehm were removed in response to safety concerns by members of the committee. The rest of the vegetation was left intact as the basin is an educational space for biologists and the environmental science program. It was planned as a naturalized basin that included native plants primarily so that it might act to promote water purification as storm water ran into the basin. There is rough vegetation cover in the basin which includes many of the original species that were planted in the basin. Faculty use the basin for instruction in a number of field-oriented classes including Botany, Ecology, and Plant Ecology. There are faculty members who study gall forming insects on plants and plant-herbivore or plant-pollinator interactions who use the vegetation in the basin for their research studies. A sign designating that area as a research space will be put in place.

2. Wild flower project

The committee discussed the wild flowers management plan that will incorporate the heritage center and the north water tower.

c. Miscellaneous

Budget cut and campus maintenance: Will Meeker, from facilities, informed the committee about budget cuts that affected facilities recently which might create difficulties when it comes to manpower. Will explained that there were 24 vacancies which represent roughly 1000 hrs/week that cannot be met, so projects around campus are being accomplished at a substantially much slower rate than they used to be. The committee discussed the necessity of informing the campus community about this issue.