

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Steering Committee

FROM: John Cameron, Chair *ABC/jc*
Campus Development and Environment Committee

DATE: May 12, 1980

SUBJECT: Annual Report, 1979-80

Owing to the inability to serve of the person originally selected to chair CDEC, the appointment of the actual chairperson was officially made by the University Senate only as of its October 18, 1979 meeting. As an inevitable result, the academic year's agenda was somewhat attenuated; although the first attempt to establish a meeting time for faculty and administrative colleagues dates from October 10, 1979, the filling of student seats by the University Congress was naturally a more drawn-out process, with the result that our first meeting took place only on November 27, 1979. Other meetings took place on February 12, March 18 and April 15, 1980. The membership of CDEC for 1979-80 has been composed of the following faculty and staff: Mary Delton, Ted Landau, Richard Pettengill, C. K. Rowland, Jerry Dahlmann, Bill Marshall, Cynthia Redwine, Kiichi Usui, and George Karas, plus the Vice President for Campus and Student Affairs (ex-officio and non-voting); and the following students: Bob Latz, Mark Kochis, Carol Warner, and Dawn Santy (replacing, as designated by the University Congress, Janet Hoyt, who withdrew from the University during the fall semester).

This academic year CDEC met on Tuesday mornings, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., on the occasions specified in the first paragraph. It must be reported that the third and fourth meetings were poorly attended: of the thirteen or fourteen members of CDEC, only three were in attendance. The time of the meeting might be invoked, but nowadays any large committee has difficulty in finding a common free period for regular meetings. I also suspect that we may very well be experiencing a decrease of interest in those ecological issues which have been perceived in recent years as being of primordial importance. Perhaps also the willingness of former President O'Dowd to establish, as an "official administrative policy of the University" (despite the refusal of the Board of Trustees to so rule) the designation of the southwestern portion of the campus (see Appendix I, area outlined in red) as a "Nature Area," represents an achievement of such magnitude that a natural "relapse" has occurred (this designation per memo of President O'Dowd to R. Stamps, Chairperson of CDEC, dated April 19, 1978 [Appendix II]).

Certainly our most important recommendation for the year is that the northern perimeter road parallel to Walton Boulevard be continued eastward to Adams Road from the existing spur at the eastern terminus of the paved, completed portion, per the Johnson, Johnson and Roy "Long Range Physical Development Plan. Oakland University" (Appendix I). George Karas explained to CDEC in detail the nature of the projected extension of the north perimeter road, and the "earmarked" character of the funding, which could not, by definition, be applied to any other campus project, i.e. books for the library, other instructional equipment, etc., as well as the urgency of acting swiftly so as to take advantage of available state funding.

The CDEC also benefitted from presentations by Richard Tucker, who provided an update on the activities of the Environmental Studies group, which is considering the feasibility of a Concentration in Environmental Studies, as well as possibly a general education course in this area; and by Kiichi Usui, Curator of the Meadow Brook Art Gallery, who brought us up to date on the status of his attempts to secure external funding for outdoor sculpture for the Oakland Campus (see Appendix III). His original proposal envisaged the placement of such works in the area of the Festival. Subsequent discussions, especially at the April 15 meeting, centered on the advisability of the placement of such works in the central campus area.

In rereading the Senate charge to the committee, it might appear to some that the most neglected area of CDEC's responsibility is that of "aesthetic accouterments." Although the university community seems to be reasonably pleased with recent achievements in this area (e.g. Varner Hall, O'Dowd Hall, the remodeling by Mr. Rosetti of Kresge Library), we must admit that we have several undistinguished, to put it most charitably, buildings. What could we do to mitigate the attendant negative aesthetics of such existing conditions, which of course are a "given" with which we must deal? For example, the area between Wilson, O'Dowd and North Foundation Hall? Mr. Usui's proposals are: outdoor sculpture might provide something in the way of a partial answer. Central Michigan University was suggested as an example of a clearly laid-out campus, with exemplary signing, public information announcements, etc.

Still pending are items being considered by a subcommittee studying the western boundary of the campus, the eventual projected paving of Squirrel Road, and the state of the small park/picnic area at the end of Lonedale. Also pending is Jan Kubic's memo to President Matthews of November 19, 1979, concerning the use of campus grounds for such activities as cross-country skiing, and running, and jogging, etc. At our April 15 meeting, it was agreed that I should pursue this matter over the summer, starting with Cranbrook, the grounds of which are used extensively for these purposes, and report back to CDEC in late summer or fall.

I want to thank all of the members of CDEC for their contributions to our work.

JC:jc

cc: Mary Delton, Ted Landau, Richard Pettengill, C. K. Rowland, Jerry Dahlmann, Bill Marshall, Cynthia Redwine, Kiichi Usui, George Karas, Bob Latz, Mark Kochis, Carol Warner, Dawn Santy, and Richard Tucker

(Signed in Mr. Cameron's absence)