IN ATTENDANCE:
Committee members: David McCaffrey, Steve Beditz, John Giarrusso, Catherine T. Lawson, Fardin Sanai, Christine Bouchard, Susanna Fessler, Jonathan Thorogon (undergrad student rep)
Staff: Errol Millington, Frank Fazio, Jim Moore
Guests: none

1. Purple Path, Indian Pond and Campus Entrances – Project Update

APAAC is presented with the developments of the revised project design and is being asked to comment and provide feedback in comparison to the previously vetted conceptual design prepared by Trowbridge & Wolf Landscape Architects (TWLA).

- Errol Millington opened the agenda item by presenting to the committee a project overview and design concepts.
- Improvements are identified in several project areas: Purple Path Phase 2A (campus main entry at Washington Ave.), Purple Path phases 3A, 3B, and 3C (adjacent to State Quad parking lot), the Washington Avenue east entrance, Indian Pond, and the Western Ave campus entrance. These projects are anticipated for completion by the fall of 2012 with Phase 3C of the Purple Path planned for construction at a future date.
- An option regarding the placement of the path in Collins Circle was shown; and the Committee agreed that a path which more closely followed the curb line is preferred.
- The Purple Path traverses various road and landscaping conditions and several ideas were presented to “unify” the path with common identifying features. They were: 1) placing illuminated seating cubes along the path; 2) adding tumbled purple glass into the asphalt and/or concrete curb; and 3) installing purple crocus plants within the planned lawn median.
- The Committee expressed durability, vandalism, and maintenance concerns with regard to the lighted cubes option, and it was largely dismissed as an option. Nonetheless, the group recognized that ‘different elements in different places along the path’ is an important element.
- Since the glass proposed in the ‘glassphalt’ is tumbled, if used on the surface of the asphalt, it is believed the glass would not affect running shoes any differently than standard asphalt aggregate would. The cost of the addition was discussed as being a hindrance to implementation.
- Notions of adding unifying, colorful plantings were accepted as a good option.
- The need to cut down the trees in “pine cone alley” by State Quad parking was discussed and accepted as inevitable.
- Discussion turned to the campus entrances, showing prior concepts that were less formal than the current design. The Committee expressed preference for the more formal campus design.
- The City of Albany, the NYSDOT and the CDTA are in the process of working towards having a sidewalk constructed along the north side of the campus along Washington Avenue and providing a single bus stop near the eastern-most Washington Avenue entrance to the campus, thereby eliminating the bus stop on the east entrance road. The current Purple Path design seeks to connect to this future sidewalk to provide a more continuous pedestrian circulation network on campus.
- Discussion regarding the possible need for a right-turn lane at the eastern entrance onto Washington Avenue occurred with further research promised by Facilities.
Discussion turned to improvements to Indian Pond, the objective being improved connectivity to the rest of the campus and creating greater educational and recreational opportunities.

The proposed footbridge was discussed with a lower height bridge preferred to mitigate potential unintended uses. Pedestrian access management strategies were also discussed, including increased lighting for portions of the paths and the desire to keep large portions of the area in its natural setting.

Concept design view of more formal Main Campus Entrance at Washington Avenue

Overall Plan for Indian Pond improvements
2. Campus Center Expansion – Programming & Conceptual Design Update

The Campus Center Expansion project design process is underway. APAAC is presented with conceptual design renderings from an older 2009 Campus Center Expansion Study, comparing it to emerging designs, seeking approval on direction with regard to site planning.

- Three (3) preferred design schemes were presented to the Committee. Two of the preferred schemes provided expansion to the western side of the existing campus center. The other, a ‘symmetrical scheme’, provided for expansion on both sides of the Campus Center.
- Of these options, the symmetrical scheme, which was the concept in the 2009 Study, was most preferred by the staff and committees working on the current designs, but is also estimated to be the most costly and over-budget.
- The notion of symmetry (i.e., equal new expansion on both the west and east sides, as depicted in the drawing below) was embraced by APAAC, but given budget issues, the APAAC group agreed that designers and planners could build on only the western side (see second drawing below), holding the east side for future expansion potential at a later date in the future.
- For each of the western schemes building massing is a concern that warrants closer attention.
- Resulting adjacencies and densities of activities were discussed to the degree how the Campus Center design options might encourage or discourage Student-Faculty interactions. Western-loaded schemes were generally thought to encourage a higher density of activities between both students and faculty, whereas the symmetrical scheme may encourage separate functional zones for students and faculty. Closer evaluation of spatial adjacencies and resulting social opportunities within rooms/ spaces is required as the project advances through schematic design.

Ground Floor Plan for Symmetrical Scheme
Ground Floor Plan for Western Scheme