

Report of the Academic Facilities Committee of the Faculty Senate

Reflected below are two issues the AFC has raised in communications with a combination of the following individuals: Erik Lillquist (Assoc. Provost Strategy/Finance), Amy Newcombe (Sr. Assoc. Provost), Victoria Pivovarnick (Dir. Capital Planning/Project Mgt.), and John Signorello (Assoc. VP for Facilities and Operations)

1. Last semester AFC contacted John Signorello because the current Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) office is inaccessible. Given the critical role and broad reach of CAPS, we wanted to initiate consideration of its relocation (we had received confirmation it will not be relocated to the new U-Center).

John replied that they “understand” the need to move CAPS and other programs to an accessible space and that it will be incorporated into future projects in accordance with the “Campus Master Vision.”

2. The Academic Facilities Committee was approached by a Faculty Senator working with the SHU Contemplative Community Initiative about the need for contemplative spaces on our campuses. With the increased interest in contemplative pedagogy across the University, the AFC agreed that this is a worthwhile issue. Members of the SHU Contemplative Community Initiative discussed the possibility of developing the green space between Xavier Hall and Duffy Hall as a meditation garden.

John Signorello indicated that the U-center project will be converting the existing garden into a meditation and prayer garden as part of the new entrance next to the theater.

The SHU Contemplative Community Initiative members were happy to hear the news. One possible concern is that it might be close to the new entrance to the theater, and if so, they can't imagine it would be very well suited to prayer and meditation if crowds are passing through on their way into the building. They requested that I follow up and ask John Signorello about this, and wondered if perhaps the plans can be shared or discussed with them?

We received the response that the gardens will be on both sides of the walkway, with the prayer garden on the upper side around the statue and the meditation garden on the lower side.

Respectfully Submitted 2/15/2022 on behalf of the Committee:
Leslie Bunnage
Chair of Academic Facilities Committee