

## **Campus Facilities Planning Task Force Charge**

New Paltz's physical campus environment is meant to serve the college's academic mission, including its residential character. In the past, the college's physical growth or changes in the campus environment have often been the consequence of independent decisions, made without sufficient consideration of their long-term aesthetic and operational impact, and without reference to (or guidance from) an overall campus master plan. As we make decisions about future changes to the college's physical plant, we would benefit from having a clearer framework in which to evaluate our choices and ensure that the physical elements of our campus best support institutional values and goals.

Furthermore, the State University Construction Fund (the "Fund") is beginning to develop a request for a new multi-year, multi-billion dollar capital plan for all of SUNY (the current five-year plan expires of FY09). As critical background for this effort, the Fund is asking all campuses to engage in master facilities planning, focusing on the campus's physical plant needs over the next 10 years.

Given this confluence of local needs and System expectations, we should create a Campus Facilities Planning Task Force. Working with the assistance of an external architectural/planning consultant(s), this broadly representative group will be charged with offering recommendations to the College President and Vice Presidents on the elements of a new campus facilities master plan, including the following:

Overall campus appearance, including but not limited to: landscaping, definition of campus entrance/boundaries, and the aesthetic features of thoroughfares and grounds;

Campus circulation (including the desired pedestrian environment, bicycle and automotive traffic flow, and parking);

Accessibility to campus buildings; and

The desired future location of building projects we would like to undertake in the next decade (e.g., renovations to the library, new science facilities, additional faculty office space, apartment-style housing for students, a new police station, a new swimming pool).

In developing its recommendations, the Task Force should be particularly mindful of and sensitive to best practices in environmental sustainability, in addition to operational efficiency and cost.

The Task Force should consult widely across the campus community, especially at the start of its deliberations, and it should periodically report to the community on the progress it is making and ideas it is developing. It should aim to complete its work by November 2007.