Faculty Senate March 20, 2007, Meeting Written Report from the University Environment Committee

CAMPUS GREEN SPACE REPORT

Considerable improvements have been made in the landscaping and appearance of the East Campus of East Carolina University. Chancellor Eakin and Jo Eakin deserve a great deal of credit in organizing efforts to restore and enhance the appearance of campus when they came to East Carolina University. This effort needs to be maintained and we are very appreciative of the efforts of the Buildings and Grounds Department's efforts to continue improvements in the appearance of the campus. The University Environment Committee has reviewed the campus Green Spaces and offers its recommendations about sensitive areas which need to be preserved and protected. We hope these recommendations will be considered in future master plans and in the design of new buildings. We expect the campus to grow and its growth can be accomplished while preserving the beauty of the campus landscape.

Campus Mall

- 1. This area should be preserved and protected from building encroachment and parking lots.
- 2. The use of the Campus Mall should be limited to Barefoot in the Park and events related to the celebration of the Centennial, and an event that might replace founder's day.
- 3. There is general concern that mall area is very sensitive to soil compaction and that the tree canopy makes lawn growth difficult.
- 4. The tree canopy is very pleasing and provides summer shade and natural cooling. The trees should be protected.
- 5. Vehicles or trailers should not be used on the mall lawn to prevent lawn and root damage. Vendor vehicles can be parked on the streets surrounding the mall during festivals.
- 6. Mall trees need protection from utility projects involving trenching that can damage roots. Horizontal boring should be used whenever possible to protect the trees.
- 7. Mendenhall is going to be expanded. The construction yard areas required for this project should not use the mall.

Fifth Street Green Spaces

- 1. The lawn and all landscaped areas on the University side of 5th Street should be preserved.
- 2. There should be a prohibition of new parking lots and buildings in the area along Fifth Street.
- 3. Trees in this area should be protected and need to be protected from utility projects involving trenching that can damage roots.
- 4. Aging trees in the area should be replaced as they are lost to maintain the park like appearance of the north side of campus.

Tenth Street Green Spaces

- 1. The woods between the new science building and Tenth Street are in a wet area which is a water catchment area. The trees enhance the area and should be preserved and protected from utility trenching.
- 2. The grass area south of the Joyner Library is ringed with recently planted trees that are memorials to people who are significant to the history of the University. This area needs preservation and aesthetic development.

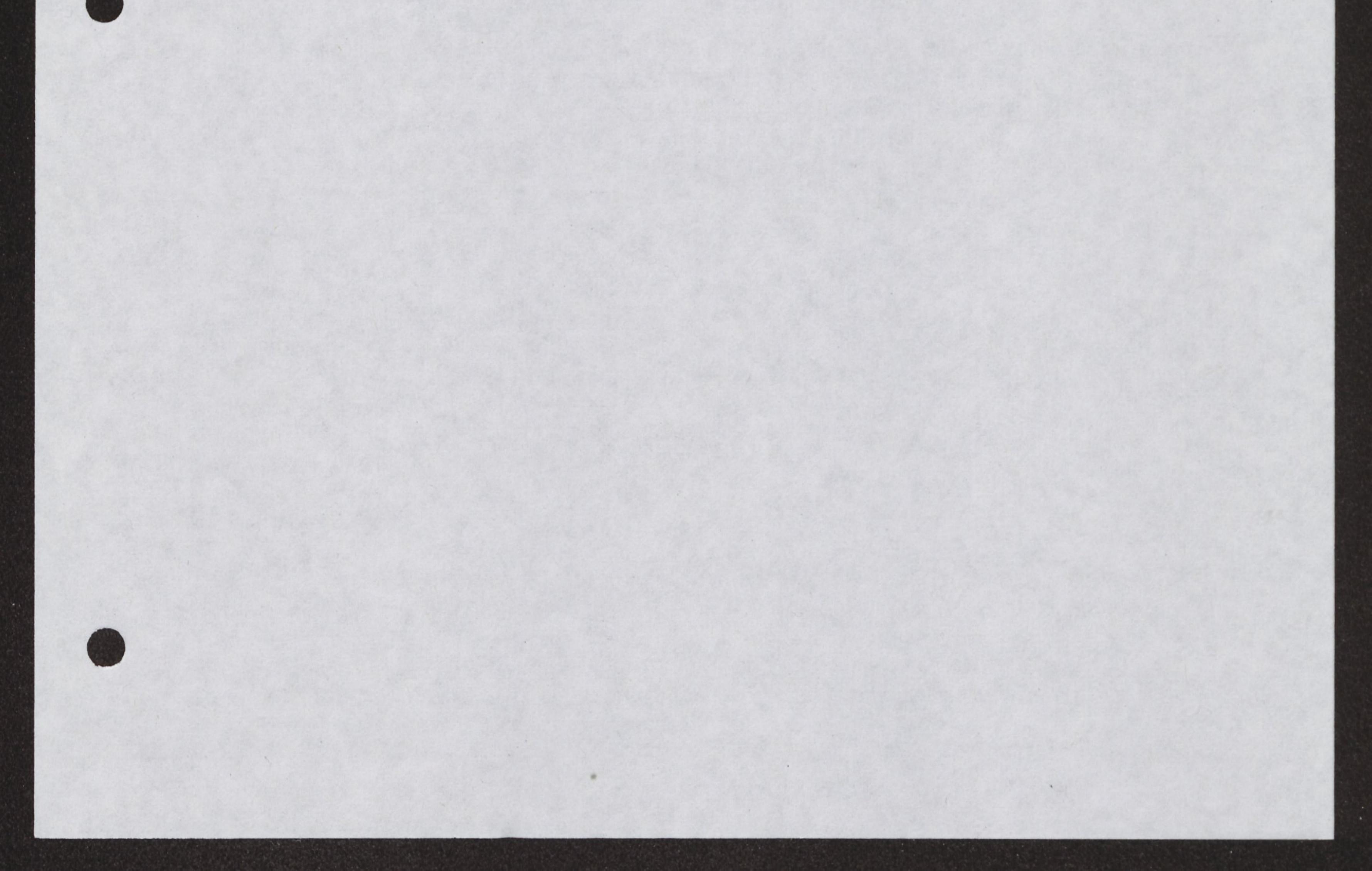
- The drive to the library should be developed into an aesthetically pleasing Tenth Street campus entrance.
- The aesthetic appearance of other green areas along Tenth Street should be maintained and improved. Parking lots facing Tenth Street should be screened.
- A buffer hedge or other landscape feature to screen the parking lot at Brewster and Fletcher would enhance the appearance of the campus on Tenth Street.

Band Practice Field and College Hill Area

 The band practice field across from the College Hill should be preserved as a green space. This area also floods and it is not a good site for development it also provides recreation space for students living on College Hill.
 The trees on the Slope of college Hills adjacent to the Band practice field and the parking lot across the street should be preserved.

Frisbee Golf Course and Charles Street

- The Frisbee Golf area is an aesthetically pleasing entrance to campus and compliments the improved Charles Street landscaping.
- 2. The Frisbee Golf area should be preserved as an open park for as long as possible.
- If the Frisbee Golf area is used for building or parking, buffer yards should be present to
 protect the surrounding residential areas and to ensure that the area remains aesthetically
 pleasing.
- The Frisbee Golf area should be used with care for outdoor events such as the Pig Skin Pigout, Frisbee golf, tail gaiting alumni picnics



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REPORT ON THE AREA NEAR THE SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL FIELDS

The University Environment Committee met with representatives of the athletic program to discuss the use the area adjacent to the softball field and base ball stadium.

There have been some important measures to improve the area. The lawn by the softball field has been aerated reseeded and fertilized to improve the grass.

Athletics has suspended parking and tail gaiting on the grassy area by the softball field during baseball season. There were too many games to allow car traffic on the grass. It was evident that the grass had been damaged by tailgating during the base ball season.

The University Environment Committee felt that the use of the area football tail gaiting, the Pigskin Pig-out and other outdoor events is appropriate. The committee also agreed that the area was suitable for the carnival associated with the Pigskin Pig-out would be appropriate. The University Environment Committee was assured that the site would be maintained by athletics and grounds and that damage would be repaired.

Those in attendance agreed to the following points of discussion

- 1. The University Environment Committee felt that the area softball field and base ball stadium should be maintained as a park like area for as long as possible.
- 2. The area is an appealing entrance to the University.
- 3. The area enhances the value of the surrounding residential neighborhoods.
- Many universities are now surrounded by aging rental properties which can lead to problems some of which are evident north of campus. The University Environment Committee felt natural areas on the south part of campus should be respected to prevent decline of the surrounding neighborhoods.
- The University Environment Committee felt that the area adjacent to the base ball stadium should be used for events that fit its park like nature provided that suitable precautions should be taken to preserve the lawn trees and shrubs.
- The Athletic Department agreed to concerns about preserving the lawn trees and shrubs near the softball field and base ball field.
- It was agreed that he Athletic Department would approve the scheduling of events for the area but they would coordinate them with the Grounds Department to ensure that the lawn, trees, shrubs and grass were not damaged.
- The Grounds Department would have representatives check to see that parking areas were not going to damage trees or shrubs.
- In addition the Grounds Department would send representatives to ensure that there was no damage to utilities such as underground irrigation systems, drainage and other utilities.
 A procedure would be developed between the Grounds Department and the Athletic Department for notification of coming events and to ensure protection of the area.