



The Evergreen State College

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February 28, 1994

To: Academic Vice President Russ Lidman and
members of the Long Range Planning DTF

From: Tom Rainey, Chairperson, and members of the
TESC Environment Subcommittee

Re: Preliminary Report of the Subcommittee

The Academic Vice President and the Long Range Planning DTF (LRPDTF) requested the Environment Subcommittee to explore a number of specific questions relevant to the Evergreen environment and to develop specific strategic statements and rationales. These questions were as follows: 1. Considering that urban and suburban Southwest Washington is moving up to our campus's boundaries, what will we need to do to preserve the character of this 1000-acre campus? 2. Should we make our unique physical and biological environment more accessible so that the public might develop a greater stake in its preservation? 3. What should govern growth of the built environment? (Subquestions: Are we using our facilities well enough? Do we need more? At what cost?) 4. Is the campus master plan adequate or should we revise it? 5. Considering that our buildings are two decades or more old, what must we do to maintain them well into the next century? 6. What should be the relationships between the college and local communities of Southwest Washington as well as of other units of government? In addition, President Jane Jervis prompted, in her original charge to the LRPDTF, all subcommittees to consider how the college should look "when children born in the early 1990s are approaching college age."

The Environment Subcommittee met at least weekly during late January and throughout February of 1994. Members of the subcommittee first discussed the findings and statements of the last TESC Environment Subcommittee and the questions posed to the present subcommittee by the current LRPDTF. The current subcommittee decided that much of the evidence and many of the statements of the previous subcommittee were still relevant and need not be duplicated by the present subcommittee. After thoroughly discussing the more recent questions posed

to this subcommittee, the members divided into subgroups to study specific topics and generate fresh strategic statements and rationales. The subgroups were: Campus Land Use and the Natural Environment; Urbanization and Suburbanization; Buildings and Physical Plant; Community Relations; and the External Environment. During late February, the subcommittee discussed the statements generated by the subgroups, generally agreed on their content, and decided to move them forward to the LRPDTF.

The subcommittee also decided to solicit suggestions from the TESC Health and Safety Committee on how environmental health might be protected in future. The chair of the Health and Safety Committee submitted to the Environment Committee a report with some recommendations.

What follows in this report are preliminary strategic statements from the TESC Environment Subcommittee for consideration by the LRPDTF. The subcommittee will reconcile these statements and provide detailed rationales for them in future reports to the LRPDTF.

Campus Land Use and the Natural Environment. The subcommittee believes that the nonbuilt environment of the campus should be preserved in roughly its present state, but that the campus be made more accessible to the public. It therefore recommends

Statement: that an academic program, possibly entitled "Evergreen Environmental Assessment" should be established for 1995-96 to carry out at least the following activities: do a complete biological survey of the built and unbuilt areas of the campus; make an inventory of previous studies of the campus environment; review the existing land-use designations in the campus master plan and make recommendations for changes in these designations based on the biological survey.

Statement: that an academic program possibly entitled "Evergreen Environmental Design" should be established in academic year 1996-97 to implement the recommendations arising from the environmental assessment and master plan. Specific projects might include: design of an improved trail system for the campus; design of group meeting/picnic sites on campus; design a strategy for improving public safety and protection of the campus environment.

Statement: that the college establish a library of reports on campus in an accessible location, which will be the responsibility of a designated librarian.

Statement: that the Master of Teaching and the Masters of Environmental Studies programs, in conjunction with the director of the new K-12 initiative program, will establish environmental education programs for K-12 teachers which utilizes the campus environment and surrounding natural and built communities as study areas.

Urbanization and Suburbanization. In the spirit of preserving the unique environment of the campus, but at the same time making it more accessible to the citizens of Washington, the subcommittee recommends the following:

Statement: that we acknowledge that growth will occur in and around Evergreen and work with, not against these forces to channel it into responsible areas.

Statement: that the college encourage County and City to leave the surrounding Evergreen community out of the Short- and Long-term Urban Growth Management Boundary (LTUGMB). As a fall-back position, include only the built campus core and corridors to it in the LTUGMB.

Statement: that the college work to reduce the amount of automobiles travelling to and from TESC, even as population increases.

Statement: that the college create a voluntary ground patrol to review and protect the enforested areas of the campus.

Statement: that the college promote a voluntary "Campus Service Day" each quarter of the academic year, during which faculty and students might help clean the campus trails and roads.

Statement: that the college work with surrounding communities to promote greater opportunities for citizens of the state to become involved with TESC.

Statement: that the college maintain "soft borders," not fences, with surrounding

residents and property owners.

Statement: that the college make Evergreen a corridor for wildlife, not a biotic island, in cooperation with City and County preservation efforts.

Buildings and Physical Plant. Mindful that our buildings and physical plant is aging and convinced that we could make better use of our facilities, the subcommittee recommends:

✓ Statement: that the campus master plan be updated and publicized as a continuing planning tool. The president, provost, other vice presidents, and constituent groups should use the campus master plan as the basis for biennial review of facilities use and for guiding college operating and capital budget requests.

Statement: that specifically, the master plan should be expanded to include a new section which deals with the use of college facilities and infrastructure. This new section would recognize the relationship between teaching-learning philosophy and the physical environment, while preserving the physical facilities and setting minimum standards for building use and upkeep.

✓ Statement: that the college should develop a long-range facilities maintenance and adaption plan to ensure that our existing buildings and grounds will continue to support the campus community well. This plan would include short and intermediate funding requests.

Statement: that the college must develop a stronger and more centralized space management operation to ensure that existing facilities are effectively and efficiently used and operated before requesting new facilities. Specifically, the college should adopt a policy that prioritizes adaption of existing spaces before contemplating requests for new facilities.

Community Relations. Considering it of vital importance for the future to assess and serve the needs of surrounding communities, the subcommittee recommends:

Statement: that through public forums and direct dialogue, the college should assess the educational and service needs of our surrounding communities.

Statement: that the college should promote and staff environmental, educational and community service outreach programs that will serve the surrounding communities. These programs would meet on and off campus.

Statement: that the upcoming long-range curriculum DTF should develop environmental and community service pathways in future curricula, pathways that would reflect the curricular strengths of the undergraduate and graduate environmental studies programs as well as the potentials for fostering environmental education in the M.I.T. programs.

The External Environment. The present subcommittee recognizes the enormous amount and the relevancy of work done by the previous TESC Environment Subcommittee in the area of our external environment. The political, economic, educational and demographic trends outlined by the previous subcommittee still hold. Accordingly, this subcommittee recommends:

Statement: that, to meet demands for access and of sheer population growth and to reduce the unit cost of an Evergreen education, the college will increase its student population to perhaps 5,000+ FTE by the year 2010. Responsible staff and faculty will need to discuss whether this growth should be in small increments or in predictable "leaps."

Statement: that Evergreen should reconsider the possibility of establishing outreach programs in Thurston County or in other counties of Southwest Washington.

Statement: that the college should create more part-time and less-than-full-time programs to meet the growing needs of older and nontraditional students who work full- or part-time.

Statement: that the college should stage citizen focus groups or symposia in Southwest Washington to help our citizens articulate their educational needs. (One member of the subcommittee aptly labelled these symposia "Good Neighbor Conferences.")

Statement: that Evergreen should continue to cooperate with and design

educational programs for local, state, tribal, and community agencies and nonformal organizations.

Environmental Health. Recognizing the wisdom of and the specific requests from the TESC Health and Safety Committee, the subcommittee recommends:

Statement: that responsible college administrators consider health and safety concerns when purchasing equipment for employee work stations and that indeed, such administrators consult routinely with the Health and Safety Committee before making such purchases.

Statement: that the college establish a process for reviewing and addressing all health and safety concerns before engaging in new construction, repairs and remodels. This process should encourage the involvement of the Health and Safety Committee as well as other interested college constituencies.

Statement: that all planning for future buildings and remodels specifically address concerns regarding safe and adequate ventilation for all employees at their work stations during and after the construction, remodel or repair.

Respectfully submitted by the TESC Environment Committee: Tom Rainey (chair), Richard Cellarius, Carolyn Dobbs, Mary Geraci, Cylvia Hayes, George Leago, Jeff Parker, Tom Sykes, John Terrey, Guy Trombley, Patti Zimmerman, Steve Trotter, Staff