Environmental Review and Public Participation

New building construction, building additions, campus master planning and other activities can have major impacts on campus land use and environmental quality. Moreover, these activities may impose legal requirements on the University based on environmental law.

University Facilities establishes the following policy in order to adequately assess and minimize negative environmental impacts of new campus construction and other activities affecting our campuses. Facilities will make every effort to comply with the letter and spirit of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and encourage public participation in UB decision-making.

1. University Facilities will be responsible for compliance with SEQRA regulations. If the State University Construction Fund or other organization takes the lead in SEQRA compliance, University Facilities will participate in the process, determinations and filings.

2. University Facilities will develop and implement a public participation process for all new building construction, building additions, campus master planning and other activities which can have significant impacts on campus land use and environmental quality. The process will be tailored to the project and may be as simple as a notice in campus publications which solicits written comments, or as elaborate as a series of presentations/forums. For most projects, SEQRA review and public participation will be included in the scope of services provided by the consultant retained to provide the design services. In some cases involving limited scale projects, our Facilities Planning and Design staff may conduct these processes "in-house."

2a. Presentations for larger scope projects will be made to the appropriate campus groups including, but not limited to, Senior Administration, Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Senate, UB Council's Facilities and Land Use Committee and the Sustainability Round Table. Larger scope projects may include open design forums to the UB community and shall be a structured program of dialogue and feedback. Presentations will be publicized to the University community and will be scheduled by University Facilities prior to site selection or as early as possible in the decision-making and design process to permit participation and feedback.

2b. University Facilities will document and fairly evaluate all input obtained through the public participation process. Facilities will report the results and findings of each public participation process and share the information with the stakeholders identified above.

Approved by President William Greiner - 04/06/01