According to the Faculty Senate web site, the function of the Facilities and Environment Committee (FEC) is to review the campus master plan and monitor recommended changes and new proposals submitted to the Campus Facilities Planning Committee that affect faculty or the campus environment.

The chair of the FEC is assigned a position on the Campus Facilities Planning Committee, which provides direction for the dissemination of capital funds, the allocation of space as a university resource, and modifications to facilities in general to appropriately support the University’s Strategic Plan and the Campus Master Plan. The Committee recommends to the President, annually, updates to the Higher Education Assistance Funds table and related construction timelines. The Committee recommends to the President, annually, updates to the deferred maintenance schedule.

The Facilities and Environment Committee received the following charges during the 2013–2014 academic year:

1. Deliberate and forward a recommendation on whether the faculty should ask President Trauth to sign the Talloires Declaration, and

2. Deliberate and forward a recommendation suggesting that the University participate in the Entergy Texas SCORE program.

Talloires Declaration

The Talloires Declaration is a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities. The Declaration was composed in 1990 at an international conference in Talloires, France, and represents the first official statement made by university administrators of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. To date, the Declaration has been signed by more than 400 university presidents and chancellors in over 40 countries.

The Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF) is the administrative organization for signatories of the Talloires Declaration. According to the ULSF web site (www.ulsf.org), institutional benefits of signing the Talloires Declaration include the following:

- Joining your institution with an international network of colleges and universities committed to a sustainable future.
- Providing inspiration and motivation for pursuing environmental and sustainability initiatives on campus.
- Providing a comprehensive framework for shaping steady progress toward sustainability.
- Constituting a commitment to which the institution can be held accountable over time.
FEC members met during the spring semester and discussed the Senate’s charge to deliberate and forward a recommendation on whether the faculty should ask President Trauth to sign the Talloires Declaration. The general consensus was that making such a recommendation falls outside the stated function of the committee. Nonetheless, committee members were supportive of the goals of ULSF and offer the following observations and comments:

- The goals stated in the Talloires Declaration align well with the teaching, research, and service mission of the University.

- At present, there does not appear to be any indication of campus-wide support for the goals stated in the Declaration.

- The fundamental infrastructure for achieving the goals of the Talloires Declaration is not in place at Texas State University.

- A regional organization exists for promoting sustainability in Texas higher education. The Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability (TRACS) is a network of faculty members, students, and sustainability professionals supporting the higher education sector to implement climate change and sustainability solutions across campus operations, the curriculum, and off-campus fields of influence. TRACS facilitates the sharing of information and resources pertaining to climate and sustainability initiatives through a variety of means including regular summits and conference calls.

  TRACS currently has twelve active campus members: Austin College, Austin Community College, Baylor University, Dallas County Community College, Rice University, Texas A&M University at College Station, University of North Texas, University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at El Paso, University of Texas Pan American, and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. The organization hosts annual summits, most recently in February 2014 at College Station. Interestingly, Texas State University did not receive an invitation to the summit, as we do not have an office, or even a staff member, on campus with responsibility for overseeing sustainability issues and initiatives.

Individually and collectively, FEC members are supportive of the goals of the Talloires Declaration and of the pursuit of sustainability issues on campus. We do not feel, however, that a formal recommendation lies within the purview of the committee. Nonetheless, we would be supportive of Texas State University becoming a signatory and of a Faculty Senate request that President Trauth give serious consideration to joining the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future. Individually and collectively, committee members are also supportive of the establishment of a campus-wide committee to develop and foster sustainability initiatives and of the creation or designation of a staff position to oversee such initiatives.

**Entergy Texas SCORE Program**

Public school systems in Texas are facing higher energy costs than ever before. While energy costs have historically accounted for approximately three percent of public school districts’ total budgets, those costs have recently risen into the five to ten percent range. The Schools Conserving Resources (SCORE) Program is a no-cost program aimed at improving the energy efficiency of K-12 public schools and higher education facilities in Texas. The program is designed to assist commercial customers in reducing peak electrical demand and annual energy usage by providing access to technical knowledge and energy assessments, and offers financial incentives to improve the efficiency of their buildings.
The financial incentives offered to program participants can be significant. Last year, Sam Houston State University received a check for over $136,000 in cash incentives earned through its participation in the Entergy Texas SCORE Program and the university estimates that it will save more than $315,000 in energy costs annually.

FEC members met during the spring semester and discussed the Senate’s charge to forward a recommendation suggesting that the University participate in the Entergy Texas SCORE program. The general consensus was that this charge again falls outside the stated function of the committee. Nonetheless, committee members have looked into the Entergy Texas SCORE Program and offer the following observations:

- The SCORE Program is administered by regional Transmission and Distribution Utilities (TDUs), of which Entergy Texas, Inc. is only one.

- To be eligible for participation in a SCORE program, a public school district or higher education institution must be within a qualifying TDU’s service territory.

- The Entergy Texas, Inc., service territory covers a 27 county area of East Texas stretching from Milam and Washington counties to the Louisiana border. Nine other TDUs provide service over most of the rest of the state.

- The Central Texas area does not appear to be within the service area of any TDU offering a SCORE program and, as best we can determine, Texas State University is not currently eligible for participation in any SCORE program.
Campus Facilities Planning Committee

The chair of the FEC has routinely attended and participated in the monthly meetings of the Campus Facilities Planning Committee.