

1969

The Request of Dr. William Overlease at a Joint Meeting of the Facilities Planning Board with the Deans and Directors, West Chester State College, May 21 1968

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Further, it should be noted that the 1964 approved campus plan sited dormitories G and H and the Dining Hall south of Rose-dale Avenue. The site includes the Robert M. Mitten property, which Mr. Charles E. Swope began to preserve when he became a member of the Board of Trustees in September, 1963.

On the 1964 approved campus plan, there was an area designated for Outdoor Education, as part of the Biological Science Courses given by the Biology Department. This area is given over to dormitories and dining halls in the 1968 plan. ✓

On May 21, 1968, a joint meeting of the Facilities Planning Board with the Deans and Directors was held. Mr. Swope and Mr. Stancato attended this meeting.

One of the purposes for the meeting was to hear the request of Dr. William Overlease, a member of the Biology Department. Dr. Overlease's request was as follows:

Dr. Overlease presented the request of his committee which is involved with the Natural Sciences that a certain portion of the land on South Campus be set aside for educational services. He stressed the need to develop skill in outdoor education as part of the Biological Sciences courses. It is important that students have such facilities close by, rather than take time and money to make field trips to see, feel, and hear what the great outdoors has to offer.

Dr. Overlease noted that the committee hoped that if the area was set aside, funds could be incorporated into future budgets to erect a small building which could be used to store materials, serve as a place to camp out at times and also house certain specimens. He noted that such a center should contain water and electricity and be equipped with windows to observe birds and other wildlife. At this point Dr. Overlease stressed the need to properly train students in the field of conservation if we are to preserve any of our natural land for the future.

He also noted that it would be greatly beneficial if the area set aside could be fenced with some type of cyclone fencing to protect and preserve it.

He said that the area being requested is already being utilized by the department, which is why they are now making an official request to have it on a permanent basis.

The group took no formal action on Dr. Overlease's request.

B. Student Health and Life Center

The 1964 approved campus plan sited a Student Community Center on North Campus between Lawrence Center and the Hollinger Fieldhouse. This site was thought to be ideal for several reasons: (1) accessibility to both resident and commuting students, faculty, administration, alumni, and visitors; (2) it could be tied in with Lawrence Center, thereby eliminating the necessity of utilizing valuable space to provide food service facilities; (3) it could be tied in with Hollinger Fieldhouse thereby eliminating the necessity to utilize valuable space for active type recreational games; and (4) the entire complex could be utilized during the day to accommodate certain aspects of the academic program.

The title "Student Community Center," was later changed to "Student Health and Life Center." This was done because the College decided that the building should accommodate all functions dealing with student life, i.e., Guidance and Counseling, Medical Services, Placement Services, Student Government Offices and related space needs, College Student Publications, Student Government Bookstore and Staff Offices, Student Radio Station, and other functions normally provided for in a Student Union Building.