

**Minutes**  
**Faculty Assembly Meeting**  
**Monday, September 10, 2018, 3:30 PM**  
**Espino Conference Center, Rooms A&B**

*I. Call to Order*

Dr. Stein called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

*Present:* Andrew Alegria; April Aultman Becker; Oguzhan Basibuyuk; Anirban Bhattacharjee; Jay Downing; Betsy Evans; Theron Francis; Eric Funasaki; Bibiana Gutierrez; Christopher Herrera; Jessica Kelsch; David Leaver; Jeanne Qvarnstrom; Samuel Renfroe; Francine Richter; Thomas Shiller; Kathy Stein; Alicia Trotman; Kevin Urbanczyk; Joseph Velasco; Savannah Williamson; Yanfeng Yue; Filemon Zamora

*Absent, but counted in the quorum:* Jimmy Case; Sandra Chambers; Suyu Dong; Avram Dumitrescu; Christopher Estep; Chris Garcia; Amy Gonzalez; William Green; Alex Hardison; Kristofer Jorgenson; Marina Kimball; Ken Laviers; Ryan Luna; Cynthia McAlister; Linda McAnally; Jennifer Miller; Richard Mrozinski; Dona Roman; Mark Saka; Barbara Tucker; Julie Vega; Jessica Velasco; Bonnie Warnock; Lisa Zakharova;

*II. Welcome to Staff Council Liaisons*

Dr. Kathy Stein introduced Kayla Waggoner, Chair of Staff Council and mentioned working alongside Staff Council in the future, as staff and faculty serve on each other's' working groups

*III. SGA Report (Emily Garcia)*

Emily Garcia, the President of Student Government Association introduced herself and outlined what SGA is working on:

- They are working with SRSU Young Democrats to register students to vote/increase interest in voting
- They placed flags on the mall to honor the victims of 9/11
- They are currently seeking volunteers (students, staff and faculty) interested in helping with Homecoming 2018.

#### *IV. Guest Speakers*

##### *A. Dr. Jeanne Qvarnstrom, SACSCOC and QEP*

Dr. Qvarnstrom reported that the final report to SACSCOC was sent off by the deadline. She distributed a handout (Appendix A) that included Recommendation #3 for the SACSCOC Response Report discussing the recommended best practice of combining SRSU-Alpine and SRSU-RGC's Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senates and the context as to why we will continue to work separately with a focus on more, relevant collaboration. Dr. Stein and Dr. Gina Stocks (RGC Faculty Senate) contributed to the report.

Qvarnstrom seeks input for future collaboration between the two bodies.

Also on the handout (Appendix A) were relevant results from the most recent NSSE survey.

Finally, Qvarnstrom provided a brief QEP update and announced an event taking place October 4 for faculty to learn about the rubric for mapped courses.

##### *B. Jan Rueb, internships at SRSU*

Jan Rueb discussed shifting the internship office to Career Services. Rueb will now oversee internships and seeks help from faculty in establishing connections and making the right matches between students and positions. Rueb implemented Purple Briefcase previously and will use this software to match students and internships moving forward.

Rueb also announced the October 30 Career Fair and encouraged faculty to encourage students to attend.

##### *C. Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk, Hancock Hill update*

Dr. Urbanczyk presented on a cleanup project on Hancock Hill this summer, providing a brief history of the 10-miles of trails just behind campus. He spoke about Hancock Hill as a valuable resource of SRSU and encouraged faculty to share this special area of campus with their students as a classroom and lab, following the principles of Leave No Trace.

There were questions about whether this land could be designated as a reserve and where funding would come from for proposed signage. Neither question was definitively answered.

## *V. Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2018 meeting*

There was a brief discussion about reaching quorum based on the attendance list. Quorum was reached. Dr. Stein sought suggestions for corrections from the previous meeting's minutes.

**Motion:** to approve the April 17, 2018 minutes as presented (Gutierrez). Seconded (Bhattacharjee). Passed.

## *VI. President's Report (Dr. Kathy Stein)*

### *A. SRSU Alpine Executive Council introductions*

Dr. Stein introduced the new SRSU Faculty Assembly Executive Council: Vice President, Dr. Theron Francis; Secretary-Treasurer, Betsy Evans; and Parliamentarian, Eric Funasaki.

### *B. New SRSU-Alpine faculty*

Dr. Stein welcomed Andrew Alegria, Dr. Oguzhan Basibuyuk, Dr. Thomas Shiller, Jessica Velasco and S. Lee Renfro to Faculty Assembly.

### *C. RGC Executive Council introductions*

Dr. Stein made mention of the SRSU-RGC Faculty Senate Executive Council which includes President, Dr. Michael Ortiz; Vice President, Dr. Tiffany Culver; and Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Kevin Young.

Knowing the names of the SRSU-RGC Faculty Senate Executive Cabinet officers is the first step in paving the way for future collaboration.

### *D. Alpine Faculty Assembly and RGC Faculty Senate Collaborations*

Dr. Stein provided a list of SRSU-RGC's Faculty Senate Committees and Councils and noted the possible working groups that might find common ground as a joint committee or council.

### *E. Legacy Plan updates*

Dr. Stein shared Legacy Plan updates regarding upcoming Task Forces from Dr. Case:

- Task Force 1: to determine if SRSU-Alpine will go from three academic colleges to two academic colleges; Deans and Chairs will likely serve on this Task Force
- Task Force 2: to research teaching loads

*VII. Vice President's Report (Dr. Theron Francis)*

*A. Committee/council members vote*

Dr. Francis presented the Fall 2018 Committees and Councils list with the names of faculty slated to participate.

**Motion:** to approve the slate of Council members for approval and Committee members for Presidential approval (Joseph Velasco). Seconded (Aultman Becker). Passed.

After the slate was accepted, Francis stated that each working group should convene and decide on a chair, then email him the updates.

*VIII. Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Betsy Evans)*

Nothing to report.

*IX. Parliamentarian's Report (Dr. Eric Funasaki)*

Nothing to report.

*X. Old Business*

Nothing to report.

*XI. New Business*

*A. HB 2223/Paired Courses: Dr. Kathy Stein*

Dr. Stein reported on HB 2223/Paired courses noting that students may be in enough paired coursework to impede them from taking major-level coursework in their first year.

*B. Athletics: Dr. Kathy Stein and Coach Sandra Chambers*

Dr. Stein recognized athletes from SRSU Baseball, Basketball, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, and the training department who were awarded Honors for the American Southwest Conference Academic All-Conference.

- Lauren Ebbs from Women's Soccer and Caleb Thomasson from Men's Basketball were named the 2017-2018 ASC Scholar-Athlete Medal of Honor recipients.
- Caleb Thomasson will be honored as the 2017-2018 American Southwest Conference Fred Jacoby Male Sportsmanship Athlete of the Year during halftime at the October 6, 2018 football game.

### *XIII. Committee Reports*

No reports.

### *XIV. Council Reports*

A. Athletics Council reported that they met online to discuss one appeal for a female soccer player via Dr. Stein.

B. The Curriculum Council is working on getting a meeting together.

### *XV. Announcements*

#### *A. Voting on campus and registering students to vote*

Dr. Francis encouraged faculty to vote and to encourage their students to register on campus, noting that the Library is a new polling place for the City of Alpine (Precinct 8).

Francis advises the SRSU Young Democrats and encouraged a Young Republicans group to form. It was noted that at least one student and one advisor are considering it. New faculty S. Lee Renfro offered to advise if a group formed.

*a. Constitution Day celebration is Monday, September 17.*

*B. The TLC is open as of Monday, September 10*

Dr. Stein announced that the TLC is seeking tutors, specifically in writing and reading.

#### *C. Faculty Assembly Mixer*

Dr. Stein invited everyone to the first Faculty Assembly mixer on Friday, September 28 at the Stein home. Food and drink potluck; 6 PM; 1903 Enfield.

#### *D. Recognition of Dr. Theron Francis*

Dr. Francis was awarded Teacher of the Year. A reception will take place on September 18.

*E. The Education Department invites everyone to the Poindexter Lecture on October 1 at 7 PM featuring the National Teacher of the Year, via Dr. Qvarnstrom.*

### *XVI. Adjournment*

<b>Motion:</b> to adjourn (Leaver). Seconded (Shiller). Passed.
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## Recommendation #3 for SACSCOC Response Report

September 5, 2018

**14.3** The institution applies all appropriate standards and policies to its distance learning programs, branch campuses, and off-campus instructional sites.

**14.3 (Comprehensive institutional reviews) Recommendation 3:** The Reaffirmation Committee recommends that the institution demonstrate that it applies all appropriate standards and policies to its off-campus instructional sites.

### Faculty Governance

The Committee noted that the institution had two separate faculty bodies. SRSU invests faculty with significant governance authority, so due to the distance between the off-site instructional locations and the main campus in Alpine (around 300 miles), two faculty bodies have been operating: Faculty Assembly on the Alpine Campus and Faculty Senate for the off-campus instructional sites known collectively as Rio Grande College. Presidents of both faculty bodies have been engaged with responding to this recommendation. Although having two faculty governing bodies may not be a typical practice, it seems appropriate for our university, because it allows faculty to meet easily without the excessive costs of travel to one location. Two Sul Ross faculty governance organizations are justified by the need to communicate expediently and effectively amongst Sul Ross faculty within and across our campuses. These two bodies support the many important functions of a faculty organization in a timely manner such as:

- Promoting communication between faculty and other groups on campus.
- Soliciting faculty perceptions, suggestions, and recommendations.

Furthermore, the Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly allow for greater participation among the faculty at the distant sites.

The Reaffirmation Committee report stated, "It is not generally accepted practice in higher education that the institution have separate and distinct practices for the off-campus instructional sites..." However, our past practices indicate that, in fact, there have been common and shared practices among members of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly. Several examples of joint efforts include:

- Since 1995, Sul Ross State University has sent faculty representation from Alpine and Rio Grande College to the Texas State University System (TSUS) semiannual meetings of the Texas State University System Council of Faculty Senates in Austin, Texas to deliberate with other universities on system policy.
- When the Committee for the Quality Enhancement Plan was formed in 2015, faculty from both the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate joined and participated actively.
- When the Committee for the Strategic Plan was formed in 2016, Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate members were actively involved.

- RGC and Alpine faculty participated on the SACSCOC Accreditation Committee from 2016-2018.
- As issues of common policy arise, faculty from all campuses are selected to serve on committees to address the topics. For example, when the SRSU Online Distance Education Committee was formed in 2016, members from both the Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly were selected to participate. More recently in 2017, selected faculty from all campuses were chosen to serve on the SRSU Bookstore Committee.

On the very important faculty responsibility of making recommendations for university policy and governance issues of concern to faculty, representatives of both the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Assembly have been collaborating since 1995 through the Texas State University System (TSUS) semiannual meetings in Austin, Texas. At the meetings, issues of professional standards and academic responsibility are addressed.

To continue our tradition of common practice and to formalize it, both the Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly plan to discuss semiannual meetings for all SRSU faculty like the TSUS model. Both the Faculty Assembly and the Faculty Senate will address the topic of a Plenary Session this fall where all faculty could meet to discuss and address university policy and governance topics common to them all. There is also a commitment to review the working committees and councils to place representatives from both the Senate and Assembly on them, as appropriate. For example, the Online Distance Education Committee has been successful as a joint effort.

SRSU does have two governing bodies, Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly, to meet the overall goals of faculty governance. However, there is a tradition of common and shared practices between the Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly, and there is a commitment to expand that into other areas of interest for faculty governance.

# 2018 National Survey of Student Engagement

## Executive Summary for Faculty

In spring 2018, the NSSE was administered, via email, to all seniors on all campuses (including RGC) and to all first year students at the Alpine campus. A total of 116 first year students (18% response rate) and 176 seniors (25% response rate) participated in the survey.

Highlights from the survey include:

### *Ratings for Engagement Indicators*

- First year students rated the highest engagement indicator, **worked with a faculty member on activities other than coursework**, 15 percentage points higher than first year students at other Southwest Public Institutions.
- First year students rated the lowest engagement indicator, **institution emphasis on studying and academic work**, 14 percentage points lower than first year students at other Southwest Public Institutions.
- Seniors rated the highest engagement indicator, summarized **what you learned in class or from course materials**, 9 percentage points higher than seniors at other Southwest Public Institutions.
- Seniors rated the lowest engagement indicator, **discussion with people of a race or ethnicity other than your own**, 18 percentage points lower than seniors at other Southwest Public Institutions.

### *Perceived Gains Among Seniors*

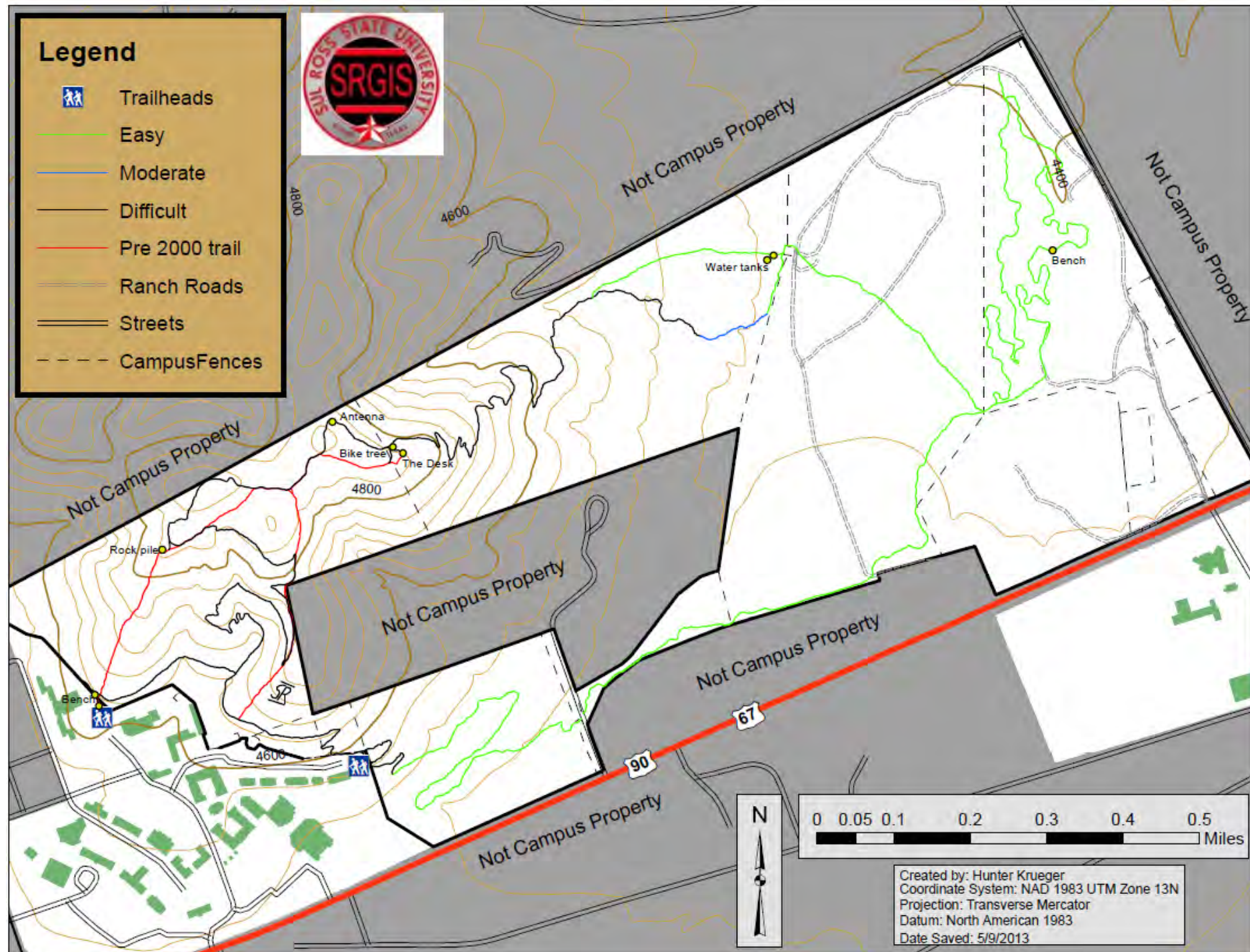
- 82% cited gains in **thinking critically and analytically** as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 72% cited gains in **speaking clearly and efficiently** as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 72% cited gains in **writing clearly and effectively** as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 70% cited gains in **acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills**, as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 68% cited gains in **working effectively with others**, as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 67% cited gains in **developing or clarifying a personal code of values and ethics**, as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 65% cited gains in **understanding people of other backgrounds**, as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 60% cited gains in **solving complex real-world problems**, as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 59% cited gains in **analyzing numerical and statistical information**, as "very much" or "quite a bit".
- 55% cited gains in **being an informed and active citizen**, as "very much" or "quite a bit".

### *Summary*

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness posts complete survey data on the IE website to help guide program enhancements for the benefit of all SRSU students.

Jeanne Qvarnstrom, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness

September 10, 2018





Near Rockpile above Mtnside dorm

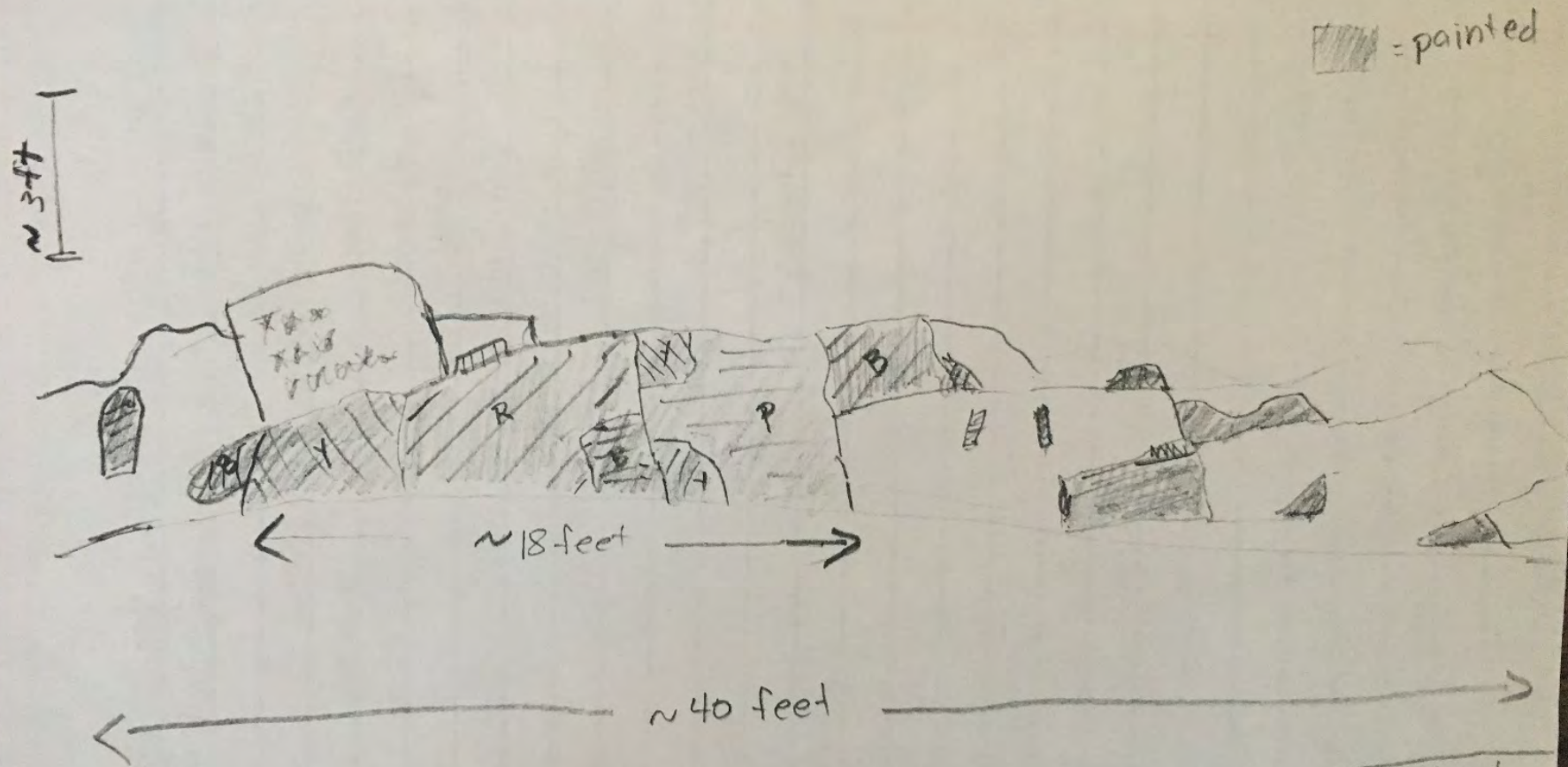


Next to the desk



~40 feet south of the desk

South of  
Desk area sketch, view to the east



$40 \times 3 = 120 \text{ ft}^2$  @  $\sim 65\%$  coverage =  $80 \text{ ft}^2$   
plus: desk area, rock pile area,  $\sim 8$  small tags along trail  
(near desk)

Chemical  
100-200 ft<sup>2</sup>/gal  
1 gal  $\sim$  \$90









## Legend

-  Trailheads
-  Easy
-  Moderate
-  Difficult
-  Pre 2000 trail
-  Ranch Roads
-  Streets
-  CampusFences

