

Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services
2013-14 Annual Report
Submitted by Rich Christie, Chair

Summary

FCUFS performed its usual reviews of construction projects, transportation and classrooms. New initiatives included the formation of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Child Care, with the goal of improving child care services for faculty, students and staff, and an agreement with the Office of Planning and Budgeting to ensure that there is faculty governance input into capital project decision making, for both prioritization of projects and project approval. Copies of presentations made to FCUFS can be found on the Council web site.

Faculty Governance Overview of Capital Projects

While reviewing updates to the University's One Capital Plan early in the year, we asked how faculty governance input was handled for new capital projects. No process existed for this function. After consultation with the Senate leadership, including attending a meeting of the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting, FCUFS and the Office of Planning and Budgeting reached an agreement that provides for FCUFS review of the One Capital Plan in Spring quarter, providing timely input to revisions to the plan, and a commitment that capital projects will be presented to FCUFS before being presented to the Regents for approval. This will provide faculty governance input to projects in a timely fashion, and permit FCUFS to notify the Senate Chair of any controversial unresolved issues, so the Chair is prepared to participate in discussion about the project at the Regents meeting, if the Chair so chooses. FCUFS agreed to double its meeting schedule in 2014-15 to accommodate requests for project review in a timely way, with the understanding that many of these dates may not require a meeting.

Construction Projects

Heard reports on the completed renovation of the Odegaard Undergraduate Library, and the Fluke Hall renovation. At the end of the year received a copy of a petition from Earth and Space Science (ESS) faculty concerning the impact of the Molecular Engineering Phase 2 construction plans on the ESS program. The Council heard a report on the campus Wayfinding Study from the campus Landscape Architect. At its roots this is about consistent signage on campus.

Student Housing

Toured the new student housing at Mercer Court and adjacent dorms. FCUFS is aware of a plan for significant rebuilding of student housing in the northeast portion of campus and will hear about that in the fall.

West Campus Plans

FCUFS participated as a source of faculty opinion for the West Campus Development Framework, an urban planning process for the portion of the campus west of 15th street. A significant amount (about 75%) of the University's new construction is expected to occur in the West Campus area over the next

10-20 years and the Development Framework is attempting to identify the overall way in which this will occur, identifying likely building sites and dealing with other urban planning issues.

Transportation Issues

Heard a general review of parking and transit issues on campus (prior to the Sound Transit vote). In general, there is sufficient parking. New construction will inevitably replace surface parking going forward, usually building underground parking to compensate. If the Sound Transit measure fails, UW Transportation may move to 'private' UW buses to replace lost Sound Transit service. A rental bike program will deploy on campus next year.

Discussed the problem created by the closure of the N6 parking lot for the Intellectual House project, which removes parking formerly used for music performances. No complete solution has so far emerged, but the issue is higher on the Parking agenda than at the start of the year.

Heard an update on the Sound Transit project.

Childcare

At the suggestion of Prof. Ione Fine of Psychology, FCUFS created the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Child Care to promote and expand child care services at UW. Professor Ann Mescher (mescher@u) is the FCUFS representative on the subcommittee. For a time it appeared that the subcommittee had found a feasible site for additional child care and also a capital cost funding source, but this fell through. The committee identified short term improvements that could be made (such as improved nanny matching) and forwarded these recommendations to the administration.

Classroom Upgrades

FCUFS heard a report on classrooms from Classroom Technology and Events (CTE), (Classroom Services renamed). In general the University has enough classrooms. An extensive program of renovation is well along. A 1,000 seat lecture hall would be the most desired new classroom. We discussed the new high technology classrooms in Odegaard. On the one hand, these classrooms are in high demand. On the other hand, much of the activity in any particular class session does not make heavy use of the technology. Probably more of these will be built.

Upcoming Issues

In the fall FCUFS expects to hear reports on and provide input for the proposed new CSE building, the UPASS funding problem, and the Northeast Campus Dorm reconstruction project. We will also follow up on Molecular Engineering Phase 2 issues if these are not resolved over the summer.

Council Members for 2013-14 Academic Year:

Faculty: Jim Burke (Mathematics), Mabel Ezeonwu (Nursing and Health Studies, UW Bothell), Brian Fabien (Mechanical Engineering), Chris Laws (Astronomy), Sara Lopez (College of Education), Sarah Stroup (Classics), Jelena Svircev (Rehabilitation Medicine).

Presidential Designees: Charles Kennedy, Associate Vice President, Facilities Services.

Ex-Officio Representatives: Christine Tawatao (ALUW), Jeff McNerney (ASUW), Will Scott (GPSS),
LeAnne Jones Wiles (PSO).