

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Relations
Special Meeting
Monday, 22 May 2006
36 Gerberding Hall

Chair Kathy Gill called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Review agenda, approval of May minutes
2. New Business
 - Update on 520 Bridge Project & Sound Transit—Campus Impacts
GPSS Resolution, Joel Ballezza, Communication Senator
Theresa Doherty, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs
3. Next Meeting: date TBD

1. Announcements, Agenda, Minutes

Gill gave members a copy of an email from Hevly, who is on sabbatical, regarding his views on some of the issues the Council has discussed or acted upon during his absence.

No changes or additions were made to the meeting agenda. Mayer moved to approve the minutes of May 8 as presented. Jackson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

2. Update on 520 Bridge Project & Sound Transit—Campus Impacts

GPSS Resolution, Joel Ballezza, Communication Senator
Gill introduced Joel Ballezza, GPSS Communication Senator to inform the Council regarding action taken by the GPSS regarding the proposed SR520 Replacement and HOV Projects.

Ballezza stated that originally the GPSS had opposed the Pacific Interchange Option. At the GPSS meeting of November, members of the Betterbridge Committee made a presentation regarding the Pacific Interchange Option and asked the GPSS for endorsement of the proposal. GPSS voted to endorse the Pacific Interchange Option. Later, new information regarding the Pacific Interchange Option was brought to the attention of the GPSS. An Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Kimberly Friese was formed to review the Pacific Interchange Option and alternate proposals. The Ad Hoc Committee proposed a resolution that would oppose support of the Pacific Interchange Option. The GPSS did not accept the resolution presented by the Ad Hoc Committee and retained the resolution passed in November in support of the Pacific Interchange Option. Copies of the resolution proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee were distributed to the Council.

Gill thanked Ballezza for taking the time to meet with the Council.

Theresa Doherty, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs

Gill introduced Theresa Doherty, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs. She thanked her for taking time from her busy schedule to bring the Council up to date on the SR520 Replacement Project and the Sound Transit Tunnel/Station Project. She stated that the Council is concerned that the Washington State Department of Transportation may recommend the Pacific Street Option as the preferred proposal for the SR520 Replacement Project. The Council has indicated that they want to go on record

opposing this option and will be drafting a resolution to that effect at this meeting. The resolution will be presented to the Faculty Senate at its meeting of May 25th. The WSDOT is expected to release the SR520 project Environmental Impact Statement this summer. The comment period is 60-days. Therefore, the Faculty Senate meeting this Thursday (May 25th) will be the only opportunity for the Faculty Senate to go on record about the proposed expansion of SR520.

Ms. Doherty gave Council members handouts of the power point presentation from the Regents meeting of November. She gave a brief history/pre-view of the work that has been done to date, reviewed the University's Guiding Principles for the SR520 Replacement Project and explained in detail the various replacement design options in consideration.

Ms. Doherty stated that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) planned to release the next SR520 Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in June. There is a 60-day comment period after the EIS is released. The UW, along with experts and consultants, will review and respond to the EIS before it goes back to WSDOT. Ultimately, the Washington State Transportation Advisory Committee and the WSDOT will make a recommendation to the Governor. The WSDOT recommendation must be approved by the Legislature, probably in the 2007 session. Ms. Doherty addressed various questions posed by the Council.

The Council discussed in length the language for the resolution. Odegaard drafted the resolution.

DRAFT - Class C Resolution
SR 520 Replacement Project

Whereas, the University of Washington is using the following five guiding principles to evaluate SR 520 replacement options:

Promote a vibrant, healthy and livable academic, business and residential community at the University of Washington and in surrounding neighborhoods;
Promote carpool, bus, rail, bicycle and pedestrian transportation solutions that improve access to the University and limit the impact of single occupancy vehicles on campus and surrounding neighborhoods;
Preserve and enhance the recreational and educational habitat of the Washington Park Arboretum and UW Botanic Garden; and
Preserve the ability of the University to meet current and future development needs;
Allow for the efficient and effective management of construction projects included in the University's Capital Improvement Program for the Seattle campus.

Whereas any alternative adopted should neither fundamentally alter the character of the campus nor interfere with the ability of the University to carry out its mission;

Whereas the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will detail the impacts of the various proposals for SR 520 will be finalized by the Washington Department of Transportation this summer, and the University must provide comments on the EIS before the next meeting of the Faculty Senate;

Whereas one alternative, the Pacific Street Interchange -- originally proposed by the Betterbridge.org group and certain residents of the Montlake neighborhood -- will adversely impact the University in the following ways:

Adversely affect the health and vitality of the University by increasing traffic volume 30 percent on the streets in Southeast campus;
Promote the use of single occupancy vehicles due to a) an increase in road capacity on the new bridge, b) expanded intersections at Montlake and Pacific and c) two new lanes of traffic heading north along Montlake from Pacific to 45th;
Harm the Washington Park Arboretum through increased shading and degradation of educational habitat;
Permanently remove development capacity on the Seattle campus; and
Create adverse impacts and costs on the University's Capital Improvement Projects, which are limited by the 2003 Master Plan for the Seattle Campus, the City of Seattle-University of Washington Agreement, and the 2001 Arboretum Master plan.

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate opposes any alteration of SR 520 that fundamentally alters the character of campus while interfering with the ability of the University to carry out its mission;

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate has grave concerns about the adoption of the Pacific Street Interchange as Washington Department of Transportation's preferred option because of its adverse affects on the University and surrounding areas.

Odegaard moved to approve the resolution. Motion seconded by Mayer. Motion passed unanimously.

Gill thanked Council members for their hard work.

3. Next Meeting

Meeting date was not scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes by Tina Aguilar, Assistant to the Executive Director Media Relations and Communications

Present: Faculty Members: Fridley, Gill (Chair), Jackson, Mayer, Odegaard
President's Designee: Arkans
Other ex Officio members: Lee, Svensson
Absent: Faculty Members: Bramhall, Hevly Okada, Parviz
Other ex officio members: Denny, Lovell
Guests: Joel Ballezza, Theresa Doherty