

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

The Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services met on Friday, **February 23, 2001**, at 10:30 a.m. in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair John Schaufelberger presided.

PRESENT: **Professors** Schaufelberger (Chair), Bramhall, Gates and Souders;
 ex officio members Chistoserdova, Coulter and Jost;
 Guest Helen Remick, Assistant Provost and Equal Employment Officer, Equal Opportunity Office

ABSENT: **Professors** Andersen, Aylward, Battaglia, Gill, Kasprisin and Zuberbuhler;
 ex officio members Cox, Fales, Holen, Ludwig, McCray, Sjavik, Pike and Bolton.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of January 26, 2001 were approved as written .

Campus projects - John Schaufelberger

Schaufelberger said the renovation work on 22 classrooms in Denny Hall is finished, with excellent results. The entire environment of the classrooms is brighter, with aesthetic tiles and many other effective features. Renovation work on 14 rooms in Mechanical Engineering will commence on March 1st.

Campus parking and signage concerns from Arts units - Sarah Gates

Gates said she will be meeting this afternoon - as arranged by Jerri McCray, Assistant Vice President, Facilities Management and Operation (and an ex officio member of FCUFS) - with Bill Talley, UW Landscape Architect, Carl Root, Head of Parking, and Jon Hooper from Physical Plant, to discuss the following parking and signage issues at UW, a possible plan of action, and a survey related to these issues:

Central Parking Garage:

Entrance - a changeable LED or other sign about Arts events and parking for that evening ;
Inside - at each level, better signs leading to exits, and signs indicating where the exits lead;
Better placement of the signs so they can be seen from a variety of places;
At each exit - **you are here** map with all of the arts/lecture venues noted prominently;
Also, maps in all Garage elevators for: Meany Hall, Meany Studio Theatre, Henry Gallery, Kane Hall;
Educate parking attendants to use C1 for the Studio Theatre;
Improve markings and lighting in all Garage staircases;
Color coded paths throughout the Garage leading to the different venues.

Red Square:

Illuminated signs directing patrons to Kane, Henry, Meany, Meany Studio, especially at the top of the stairs leading to the studio;
Where are the signs for Kane Hall?;
Signs directing people to the Dance Department and Meany Administrative Offices;
Display case for Studio Theatre near the steps.

Exterior main entrance of Meany Hall:

Sign directing patrons to path to Studio Theatre;
Better lighting for path and sign where path meets stairs down to Studio.

Studio Theatre Courtyard:

Sign directing patrons to entrance to Meany Hall outside door to parking garage;
Remove Art installation that clutters and impedes entrance to Studio Theatre;
Festive lighting - ANY lighting;
Sign over doorway to Studio Theatre;
Sign on doors to Studio Theatre;
Display case for the Studio - What's Playing/ Coming Attractions;
Anti skateboarding barriers on rails of handicapped ramp;
Lighting/ Lighting/ Lighting.

Studio Lobby:

Canopy, Awning or Sign over Theatre entrance;
Box Office renovations covered elsewhere.

Meany Hall 15th Avenue Façade:

Illuminated sign on Building.

Playhouse Theatre:

Illuminated sign on University Way - above display cases;
Lighting in 41st St. display cases;
Lighting at corner of 41st and University Way illuminating building and sidewalk.

All Buildings:

Illuminate the building signs at night.

All Campus Entrances:

Signs to galleries and theatres;
Signs for pedestrians to galleries and theatres - signposts?;
Sign directing anyone to Glenn Hughes Penthouse Theatre from off campus or on.

Additional Questions:

Where is parking for Breckman and Jacob Lawrence Gallery?;
Are there exterior building signs indicating their presence?;
Reserved/Advance pay for Arts Events;
Spaces reserved for patrons at the Penthouse on the evening of performances;
More training for parking attendants about Arts venues, especially those within buildings.

Gates said it is obvious from the list above that the campus is in need of greatly enhanced signage. She said it would help existing conditions if people working in the parking kiosks were better informed about art and performance venues that are not shown on the main campus map. Naturally, it would be most beneficial to have these venues placed on the campus map itself.

Gates said there is a definite need of an official committee that would coordinate use of facilities for campus events. As it is now, such informational facilities exist on an ad hoc basis. A central location on campus is needed for a facility at which events-related information is available to students, faculty, staff and visitors. Schaufelberger said an invaluable asset would be dispensers containing maps, brochures, event schedules, and the like, strategically placed throughout the campus.

Gates said funding is crucial if signage enhancement on campus is to become a reality. This is something she will discuss in her meeting with McCray, Copeland and others.

Schaufelberger suggested Norm Arkans, Associate Vice President and Executive Director, University Relations, as someone to seek out for events-related issues, and for strategies concerning the University community overall, as well as the larger community outside the campus. Concomitantly, strategies on garnering patrons' opinions on campus parking and signage can also be developed through discussion with Arkans. It is known that many patrons dread coming to campus for evening events for fear of getting lost. Also, as Souders pointed out, patrons are hesitant to be in the parking garage at 10:00 or 11:00 p.m., after a concert or lecture, while wearing formal attire, because they make easy targets for anyone lurking there.

Coulter said that, for interior signage in buildings throughout campus, the office to speak to is the school or college whose department is using the building in question. For exterior signage throughout campus, the office to speak to is the central University administration. By far the majority of signage needed, as Gates's list attests, is exterior signage.

Campus access issues - Helen Remick

Remick said she wants to get disability issues included in discussion whenever and wherever possible. Today's meeting is particularly appropriate because signage issues on campus are related to access issues. "Any signage project should include disability representation," said Remick. Her goal is to have "integrated projects," she added, rather than having separate projects.

Remick said that, as an example of access problems at their worst, the Computer Science Building is "terribly designed for disabilities." The two sides of the building are on different levels, which causes persons who use wheelchairs to need to use the elevator even on the "same" floor. Remick said it is desirable that architects be mindful of "single pathways" for all kinds of traffic. Multiple pathways are not only costly, but in most instances completely unnecessary.

Remick said the University has now "done most of what can be done" to improve access on campus, but several major buildings remain in severe need of enhanced access, such as Guggenheim, Hutchinson, Anderson and Lewis.

Guggenheim Hall, for upwards of 20 years, has been on the list of buildings due for major renovation. It needs an elevator, which is a major addition. We recently spent \$140,000 to install a lift because several new students needed access in Guggenheim, but lifts are problematic, and the building remains in need of an elevator. The elevator would need to be integrated with the building's renovation. Access problems in Anderson Hall are circumvented by reassigning classes. Programs above the first floor in Lewis Hall are inaccessible, and changes will have to be made when there are students or employers who need access to them. Hutchinson would also present problems if there were a student or employee in the building needing access above the first floor. Remick said little help, if any, is anticipated from the OFM disability access pool for this work from the next biennial budget.

Kane Hall has a problem that has baffled a great many people waiting for an elevator on the main floor. Though there are two elevator shafts in Kane Hall, there is only one elevator. Thus waiting for one of the two elevators is not unlike waiting for Godot. There are, as well, five other empty elevator shafts on campus, all without elevators because of funding shortages at the end of construction projects. Again, Remick stressed the supreme importance of having integrated projects, and not one access project for people without disabilities and another access project for people with disabilities.

The University has means of providing amplification in its lecture halls for students with hearing impairments. However, these systems are not effective for students in the smaller, 30-seat classrooms and do nothing to help faculty members with hearing impairments hear student comments. Overall, the University is doing well in adapting to the needs of the deaf. (Though the costs for these services are high: It costs the University about \$10,000 per annum per deaf student.)

It is for people with hearing acuity impairment that further adjustments need to be made. Many faculty at UW who are middle-aged or older have some degree of hearing acuity impairment. Their pedagogic effectiveness can easily be affected by teaching in classrooms with poor acoustics. (A study made by 1999-2000 FCUFS regular member Deen Heerwagen of Architecture - a study whose results he shared with the council - showed that interactive communication between faculty and students is significantly affected by the acoustical state of the classrooms in which courses are taught.)

The University needs to be mindful of the impact of construction on persons with visual and mobility impairments: while we focus fairly well on the finished building, we need to provide accessibility around the construction while it is under way.

Remick said no federal assistance will be available for any of the access-related work that needs to be done on campus. (She said the ADA law puts extreme responsibility on individual agencies and institutions.)

Regarding the earlier discussion about parking and signage issues, Remick said people need to think about parking problems as they affect people with "mobility problems." This would be yet another project that needs to be integrated, so that the problems of all potential users are addressed concurrently.

Remick distributed a pamphlet: "World Wide Access: Accessible Web Design," that addresses the need to create Web sites that do not disadvantage Internet users who have visual or hearing impairments, or that potential users cannot access because of slow connections and modems or older equipment that cannot download large files. Also, many potential users have difficulty accessing Web sites that are poorly organized (with unclear directions) because they have learning disabilities or speak English as a second language.

And again, faculty, staff and other users who have visual impairments or are experiencing the changes in vision which come with age may have difficulty in discerning many visual features of a Web site because of poor contrast in the visual layout of the site.

Suzzallo Library Renovation News

ALUW representative Richard Jost distributed the "Suzzallo Library Renovation News."

Starting in early March 2001, and continuing for approximately one year, the contractor will install seismic bracing in the 1963 building of Suzzallo. The work will be done in groups of floors, as follows: Second and Fourth Floors, beginning March 2001; First and Third Floors, beginning June 2001; and Sub-basement, Basement, Ground, and Fifth Floors, beginning September 2001. During the construction, these floors will still be accessible to library users, but large portions of the floors, where the bracing is to be installed, will be behind construction walls.

The last months of 2000 were busy with many aspects of Suzzallo renovation, the most significant being the completion of excavation for, and concrete pouring of, most of the new large footings underneath the 1925 and 1935 buildings. In late January 2001, International Steel began strengthening the existing steel columns in the Suzzallo Reading Room, floor to attic. The concrete shear walls in both the 1925 and 1935 buildings will soon be framed and poured. Plaster ceilings in the west entrance of the 1925 building have been removed so that both interior and exterior stone arches can be braced with structural steel. Conduit, piping, ductwork, cable trays and other infrastructures will be coordinated and installed on a floor by floor basis.

Next meeting

This was the final FCUFS meeting of Winter Quarter. The next FCUFS meeting is set for Friday, April 20, 2001, at 10:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder