

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services
10-11:30 a.m., February 21, 2013
26 Gerberding Hall

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of Minutes for 17 January 2013 meeting
 3. Transportation Issues, including Burke Gilman Trail, N6 Parking (Kavanagh and Shaheen)
 4. Rainier Vista Project (Kenney)
 5. New Business
 6. Adjournment
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for 17 January 2013 meeting.

The minutes for the 17 January 2013 meeting were approved.

3. Transportation Issues, including Burke Gilman Trail, N6 Parking (Kavanagh and Shaheen)

UPASS Issues

Josh Kavanagh opened the discussion with a recruitment appeal on behalf of the University Transportation Committee (UTC) – the advisory committee to administration on transportation issues, which includes spots for three faculty members. Only two of those three positions are currently filled, and Kavanagh feels that a third appointment would deepen the faculty connection.

Since his last report he had good news regarding parking rates that, for the most part, will not be increased this year. The only proposed change will be to the special events rates in order to provide for needed improvements for better parking service on east campus.

He then turned to decisions regarding UPASS. UPASS rates for students remain unchanged. A recent funding grievance has been settled and work is now being done on how the settlement will be funded. Kavanagh anticipates that discussions between the students and the Provost's office will continue.

UPASS rates for faculty and staff will remain unchanged this year, but only due to internal administrative funding support of the program. There's been a significant decrease in the numbers of faculty and staff participating in the program while at the same time there's been an increase in fees. The program is becoming increasingly expensive for the University to subsidize, and Kavanagh reports that the following year will be one of collaboration with all the stakeholders on how to address this situation – with the expectation that changes will be in the works by this time next year.

Laura Harrington, with support from others on the Faculty/Staff UPASS subcommittee (Matt Weatherford, Jake Whitefish, and Celeste Gilman), began her presentation, using a web-based series of slides from the following:

<http://prezi.com/cyrir4x0ggfs/facultystaff-u-pass-report/?kw=view-cyrir4x0ggfs&rc=ref-29424389>

The initial slide defined background issues, including escalating fees, the financial structure issues and stagnant participation in the program. Program issues include the problem with funding component (not the product itself) and losing the competitive edge over other employer-sponsored programs in King County. The UW ranks second to last (most expensive) in the cost to employees for a one-zone Orca PugetPass.

As it began its work, the subcommittee defined its goals as finding a financially sustainable solution that would be affordable for all users and would increase employee satisfaction. It should support employee retention and assist in recruitment efforts. It should have stakeholder support, be legally permissible and would be able to flex with changes in cost and population.

Harrington reviewed various funding approaches (based on the goals they had established) that the subcommittee had researched -- and came up with three potentially viable funding approaches:

- Employee Funding (through an employee transportation fee)
- Departmental Funding (through incorporation into the benefit load, facilities fees and head tax)
- Central Funding (a lump sum increase and restructuring)

With the employee funding model, the benefits would be that it distributes the cost over the largest pool of contributors and it is supported by state law. The cons include legal uncertainty, it would require complex employee governance, complex state hurdles to fee collection and likely opposition.

With the departmental funding model, the first aspect (incorporation into the benefit load) would offer a competitive advantage in hiring, would distribute cost among all departments, and would likely be supported by unions. On the con side, it may encounter opposition from Human Resources and the departments themselves. With the facilities fees aspect, the pros include that departments would directly support Campus Master Plan compliance; it may allow for use of available facilities overhead allowance, and would likely garner the support of unions. Cons include that there would be differing costs for different departments not directly tied to the number of commuters in a particular department. With the head tax model, the pros include that it directly supports compliance with the CTR law; it closely pegs transportation costs to their origins; and is likely to be supported by unions. The cons include higher costs for departments with more part-time staff.

With central funding, the pros include that this central administration fund program would support UW objectives. Cons would include that the funding basis must be revised to scale with changes in costs and would maintain a confusing quasi-benefit status.

Questions about the equitability in funding a program that is not used by the entire community led to considerable discussion about "taxation" for the social good. In fact, an argument can be made that providing a UPASS to some members of the community would ultimately benefit all members of the community.

Kavanagh noted that this presentation was the result of a long process involving much research and collaboration. Ultimately a solution may include parts of many of the options just presented. In any case, this will lead to an institutional-scale challenge requiring University-wide dialogue. He reiterated that the "bridge" funding that allows the University to remain with the status quo with regard to the UPASS program – will allow time for a year of discussion and collaboration with all stake-holders (including the neighborhoods surrounding the University) in order to come up with the best solution

possible. He suggested that the Senate Executive Committee be apprised of the situation and encouraged to join the conversation over the next year.

Harrington thanked Council members for their feedback, and said that she would adjust the presentation to address the social good of the proposal before financial considerations.

Burke Gilman Trail

Kavanagh began the discussion by reporting that a complete overhaul of the Burke Gilman trail on the UW Campus is planned. The trail has become increasingly congested and there are more than eighty intersections with the trail with bad signage and poor lines of sight with intersecting traffic of all sorts. Once the light rail station is open a huge increase in the number of people using the trail is anticipated. A series of studies have gone into a design for improvements that will double the right of way and provide for separate pedestrian and bike trails. The new plan would condense the 80 intersections to 20 mixing zones that will be clearly marked as “areas of change.”

Phase 1 of the project (which covers the trail between the Rainier Vista and 15th Avenue NE) is fully funded by a federal highway grant of \$3.25 million and another sum that comes from UW parking fines. No funding will be derived from student or institutional fees – or from state funding.

The Phase 1 design will be completed early next fall, with construction (anticipated to take a year) beginning in November or December. When asked about the choice of where to begin improvements to the trail, Kavanagh explained that the Health Sciences area is the most highly impacted and the one with the most safety issues. Although that part of the trail will be closed for a year, there will be quality detours provided for both bikes and pedestrians.

Kavanagh distributed two handouts showing how the mixing zones would work and how the two-level surface of the trail would work. Each mixing zone would be different to accommodate individual needs of the area. The entire trail will be pitched to prevent puddles. Lighting will be at a higher elevation in long stretches of the trail, with lower and more intense lighting at the mixing zones, and the current plan includes provision for a blue emergency phone at each mixing area. Attention was focused on ways that will encourage and provide for increased pedestrian activity – as well as taking landscape design under consideration.

4. Rainier Vista Project (Kinney)

Kristine Kenney, University Landscape Architect, began her presentation by crediting the consultation team, including architects -- Michael Van Valkenburgh -- who had produced the 2008 Concept Plan and Gustafson, Guthrie, Nichol – responsible for the current design. Civil and structural engineering consultation was done by SvR (concept design) and KPFF (current design).

Her PowerPoint presentation reviewed the history of the Vista, from its inception as part of the Olmsted design for the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition through its current status and condition which points to the need for a more timely and integrated treatment of this treasured aspect of the UW campus. The focus of the plan is to enhance the view of the Mountain. She reviewed how the current design had evolved and what aspects were taken under consideration – landscape changes, new trees, lighting, habitat, etc. She also reported on the review process this project has been subjected to over the past five years – including review by FCUFS a number of times along the way.

Work on the project will begin in early spring of next year. It will be done as one project, with a construction budget of \$40 million. No parking lots will be lost as a result of the project, but a portion of C-12 will be removed. She anticipates the project will take twelve to fourteen months to complete.

5. New Business

There was no time for new business.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes by Susan Folk, Faculty Council Support. sfolk@u.washington.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Rorabaugh (Chair), Christie, Balick,
 President's Designee: Kennedy
 Ex Officio Reps: Zuchowski, Vardy, Byrne, Goldblatt, Coslett
 Guests: Josh Kavanagh, John Shaheen, Laura Harrington, Jake Whitefish,
 Matt Weatherford, Chuck Treser, Celeste Gilman, Kristine Kenney

Absent: **Faculty:** Gates, Ozubko, Proksch, Stecker