

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services  
Council Notes  
January 23, 2014, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Tour of Lander Hall and Mercer Court
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**1) Tour of Lander Hall and Mercer Court**

Rob Lubin (Associate Director for Facilities and Capital Planning) provided a tour of the new Lander Hall and Mercer Court.

*Lander Hall*

[Lander Hall](#) was constructed to create a “village” atmosphere that connects students with UW and the surrounding community by providing a mixed-use environment. In addition to student dorms the building provides a variety of amenities including rooms for fitness, gaming, study centers and socializing. Lander Hall offers single and double rooms for undergraduate students. Housing rates are \$870/month per student in addition to food rates. Lubin clarified that the rent includes all utilities and access to the previously-mentioned amenities. Rates increased 50% from the old building but allowed for a sliding increase in order to gradually assist students as they transitioned into the new facility.

The sizes of dorm rooms increased from 178 to 300 sq. ft. and include in-room bathrooms and configurable loft furniture. Each student “community” has 50 students, one Residential Advisor and lounges for studying and socializing. Meeting facilities are located on the bottom floors which act as conference centers primarily designed for student use such as lecture series and watching movies.

Students also have access to [Local Point](#) dining by using a [Dining Account](#) which works like a prepaid debit card. The venue has open seating for 600 customers and provides cooking areas for chefs to rotate cuisines without changing out equipment. In addition to the eating area the facility has the Chef’s Table which acts as a training area for culinary staff and Housing and Food Services (H&FS) employees.

*Mercer Court*

Lubin led the council to [Mercer Court](#) which opened to students in September 2013. Mercer Court offers a variety of apartments well-suited for graduate and professional students desiring a more private environment. There are currently 1,300 students that live in a variety of rooms which range from studios to six-bedroom units. Units come with fully-equipped kitchens, private bathrooms, Wi-Fi, furnished living rooms and configurable bedroom furniture. Additional amenities include community lounges and group study areas, sky lounges and rooftop terraces, and indoor bike storage. Lubin showcased a 4-person dorm which costs \$1,050/month per student. Students have a 12-month lease option and can either choose roommates prior to securing a dorm or be paired with other individual students.

Lubin explained that Mercer Court Apartments are all hitting LEED-certified Gold status and use 53% less energy than other light buildings built at the same time in the Seattle area.

### *Discussion of UW Student Housing*

Lubin discussed recent developments for on-campus housing. With new development on West Campus there are approximately 5,000 beds compared to 2,700 before construction began. A total of 9,500 students currently live in on-campus housing taking into consideration student housing east of campus and near the U-Village. This is approximately 18% of the total student population which is slightly lower than peer institutions which are between 22-30%. Several reasons for the recent expansion of student housing is due to the increased cost of living in Seattle, dorms reaching the end of their 60-year lives, and UW leadership prioritizing student housing.

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*Minutes by Grayson Court, Faculty Council Support Analyst, gcourt@uw.edu*

**Present:**           **Faculty:** Christie (Chair), Balick, Mescher  
                          **Ex-Officio Reps:** Byrne  
                          **Guests:** Rob Lubin (Associate Director for Facilities and Capital Planning)

**Absent:**           **Faculty:** Gates, Ozubko, Proksch  
                          **President's Designee:** Kennedy  
                          **Ex-Officio Reps:** Goldblatt, Zuchowski