

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services
January 14, 2010
36 Gerberding Hall

Chair Bill Rorabaugh called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Minutes for November 10, 2009, Meeting
2. SR 520 Project Update (Theresa Doherty, Office of Regional Relations)
3. Rainier Vista "Roof" over Pacific Place (Kristine Kenney, Capital Projects Office)
4. Alumni House and Capital Budget Update (Colleen Pike, Capital Resource Planning)
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

1. Approval of the November 10, 2009 FCUFS meeting minutes

The minutes from the November 10 meeting were approved

2. SR 520 Project Update (Theresa Doherty, Office of Regional Relations)

Chair Bill Rorabaugh introduced Theresa Doherty, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs, who briefed the council on the status of the SR 520 bridge replacement project. Doherty explained that a legislative working group, consisting of both east- and west-side legislators, has been considering three options for the interchange at Montlake that had been previously proposed by a mediation panel. The options "A," "K," and "L," were pictured in a handout that Doherty distributed. The challenge was to find an option that would be possible within a budget of \$4.6 billion. The working group has endorsed an augmented version of option A, called "A+," which would include all of what's called for in option A, increasing the road from four to six lanes and building an additional opening bridge, with the addition of local ramps that would reduce the pressure of traffic on the Montlake interchange. Options K and L were seen as more problematic and expensive. The state legislature is now focusing on the funding (particularly on various plans for bridge tolls) and will defer its final decision on the options until later.

Doherty reports that the UW prefers option A+ as it would have the least impact on UW facilities and assets. Ensuing discussion included the determination (to appear in the final EIS) of whether there are Native American burial remains on the Foster Island site that will be impacted under any of the plans being considered; whether the plans for the 520 bridge replacement were being coordinated with Sound Transit's plans for the same intersection; and whether the 520 bridge will accommodate tracks for Sound Transit trains. The I-90 floating bridge may not be able to do so.

Doherty concluded by saying that although there are still concerns about how the ramps included in the A+ option will impact the Arboretum, the UW is still committed to this alternative. Rorabaugh thanked Doherty for her presentation.

3. Rainier Vista "Roof" over Pacific Place (Kristine Kenney, Capital Projects Office)

Rorabaugh then introduced Kristine Kenney, University Landscape Architect, from the Capital Projects Office, to brief the Council about the Rainier Vista "Roof" over Pacific Place. Kenney reported that a Request for Proposal will go out this week to four firms that were short-listed for work on the Triangle Garage area. The work will include rough grading of the lower Rainier Vista and Montlake Triangle, lowering Pacific Place (the street connecting Montlake Boulevard with Pacific Street) and creating a land bridge over it to link with Rainier Vista.

The work is essentially the southernmost portion of the Rainier Vista Plan created two years ago with the exception of a skybridge from the Sound Transit station over Montlake Boulevard. Sound Transit had

proposed building a 600-foot skybridge that would go from its station across both Montlake and Pacific Place and ending near Wilson Annex. In the Rainier Vista plan, the University had countered with a proposal for a much shorter skybridge that would go from the station to the triangle area, connecting with paths there.

But according Kenney, the Seattle Department of Transportation prefers at-grade crossings rather than skybridges, so a study was conducted last summer to look at the feasibility of lowering Pacific Place, providing the land bridge over, and then creating an at-grade, mid-block Montlake crossing in front of the station. That study showed that the plan was feasible with financial contributions from Sound Transit, SDOT and the University.

A Request for Qualifications went out in December, to which eight companies responded. Four were chosen to receive the Request for Proposal. Kenney said those proposals are due at the end of March. The chosen firm will be notified in April so that they can begin planning. But actual work on the project won't start until the spring of 2011. The plan means that pedestrians coming out of the Sound Transit Station (which won't open until 2016) will be able to cross Montlake via a new crosswalk that will take them to the triangle area. From there they could proceed over Pacific Place to Rainier Vista. The two existing crosswalks at the intersection of Montlake and Pacific will remain as they are.

Sound Transit anticipates up to 400 people getting off the train at one time during peak periods. A thorough traffic analysis that was part of the feasibility study determined that, assuming the traffic signals are properly timed, an additional crosswalk will not have an adverse impact on traffic.

The University did not favor Sound Transit's original skybridge plan, partly because it would have been inconvenient for Sound Transit riders who wanted to go to the medical center and partly because it was too long. The bridge proposed by Sound Transit-was more than 600 feet long and there were serious concerns about security. If someone found him or herself alone on the bridge at night, the closest exit could be up to 300 feet away.

The new plan will include a bypass path for the Burke Gilman Trail that will follow Pacific Place under the land bridge, thus separating pedestrians wanting to enter the campus from bicyclists wanting to bypass campus. However, there will also be a path off the trail for those heading up Rainier Vista.

The "finish work" of redoing the landscape on the triangle and the lower vista is not part of this project. It will be bid as a separate project and constructed immediately following this work. Kenney said that almost everything currently on the triangle will be removed. She said many of the Leyland cypress trees there were lost in a windstorm in 2006 and the others have the same disease and are in need of replacement. The finished landscape will provide a better connection to the campus, both functionally and aesthetically. Not only will the views both up and down the vista be improved, but the entire pedestrian experience will be enhanced to provide a more appropriate gateway to the University. Rorabaugh thanked Kenney for her report.

4. Alumni House and Capital Budget Update (Colleen Pike, Capital Resource Planning)

Rorabaugh then introduced Colleen Pike, Director of the Capital Resource Planning. Pike reported on an action taken by the Board of Regents in November to approve the purchase of the Alumni House property for \$1.8 million. She then described the property, located at 1415 NE 45th Street that includes 18 underground parking stalls. It is currently zoned "Neighborhood Commercial" with a maximum height limit of 65 feet. The structure was originally built as a faith-based student center and is currently owned by the University of Washington Alumni Association. The offices of the UW Alumni Association have moved into the UW Tower. Although approved by the Regents, the purchase is being delayed until March.

This purchase would provide additional office space at a location close to the campus. The short term use would provide for University programs, with the long term use being a potential development opportunity. After some discussion of the possible uses of this new space, Pike turned to the UW 2010 state supplemental budget request.

Pike focused on the \$2 million in state capital funds that is being requested for UW Tacoma land acquisition. The second project request is UW Tacoma Phase 3. The legislature was not able to fully fund the UW Tacoma Phase 3 project in the 2009-2011 state capital budget. In an effort to support the continued expansion of the UW Tacoma campus, the UW is considering supplementing state capital funds for the UW Tacoma Phase 3 project with a combination of UW Tacoma reserves and debt that would be supported by a number of different sources. If the legislature approves this plan, administration will develop a plan (subject to approval by the Regents) for completion of the remainder of the scope of the UW Tacoma Phase 3 project.

The third project is Balmer Hall – Business School Phase 2. The University is requesting legislative authorization to issue additional UW building fee funded debt necessary to complete the \$42.8 million replacement of Balmer Hall. Rorabaugh thanked Pike for her presentation.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

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Minutes by Susan Folk, Assistant to the Secretary of the Faculty, sfolk@u.washington.edu

Present **Faculty members:** Rorabaugh (Chair), Bichindaritz, Chizeck, Gates, Little, Ozubko, Treser.
Ex officio members: Walker, Zuchowski
President's Designee: Charles Kennedy
Regularly Invited Guests: Colleen Pike
Guests: Kristine Kenney, Andy Casillas, Theresa Doherty

Absent **Faculty members:** Taylor
Ex officio members: Barker, Keister, Albrecht
Regularly Invited Guests: John Schaufelberger