

May 21, 2012

Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services
Annual Report, 2011-2012

FCUFS met eight times between October 2011 and May 2012 to review proposals affecting facilities on campus. The economic downturn, when the UW operating budget was under stress, proved an excellent time for construction, especially with non-state funds. Here is a complete list of items reviewed:

1. UW student housing projects west of 15th Avenue NE. Buildings completed, under construction, and planned will both replace older housing and add units in an area where upward rent pressure might be expected with the completion of Sound Transit. A majority of UW students live within walking distance of campus, which is environmentally sound.
2. Husky Stadium. This project is financed by donor funds and Pac-12 television revenues. It also includes considerable usable indoor space under the new stands.
3. Engineering Research Center, Russell Hall.
4. Fluke Hall repurposing for new incubator research.
5. Master Plan for infrastructure, which concerns many environmental issues, including heating, cooling, electricity. The goal is to have UW approach self-sufficiency.
6. UW Police Department relocation. The first FCUFS meeting on a proposed site led to the withdrawal of that proposal and relocation to a second site reviewed at a later FCUFS meeting.
7. Waterfront Park. FCUFS also discussed the park at the Bryants Building, site of the present Police station.
8. Burke Museum expansion. Plans are underway, and some private fund-raising has begun.
9. HUB. FCUFS toured the renewed HUB during construction.
10. Odegaard Library renovation, which includes closure during Summer 2012.
11. Housing for UW/Children's Hospital staff in the U-District. This is a private project, but UW has an interest in making such close-in housing available.
12. UW Smart Grid. UW is close to completion of installation of monitoring equipment that will enable measurement of electricity use in each building. There is one-time federal research money involved, and UW will have to decide whether results warrant further research projects and/or trying to charge costs to each location.
13. Burke-Gilman Trail. Bicycle/pedestrian overcrowding is taking place, and there are plans to use grade separations to split bikes and people. The Trail crossover at the Northeast campus entrance will also be redesigned with a Trail/road grade separation.
14. Bicycle Parking. More spaces and different strategies are underway.
15. Parking Management. Changes in the structure of the present system are envisioned, probably for adoption in Fall 2013.
16. Capital Budget, FY2013. Many small projects are underway.
17. Biodiesel Coop. Discussion of safety issues for a student-sponsored project to repurpose cooking oil from Housing and Food Services into UW vehicle fuel.

Many of these issues will resurface during 2012-2013. FCUFS will also continue to monitor Sound Transit, the 520 Bridge project, and the Intellectual House. FCUFS also expects to review classroom usage and shortages.

Bill Rorabaugh, FCUFS chair