

15 June 2007

To: Secretary of the Faculty  
From: Bruce Balick, Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on University Facilities and Services  
Re: Annual Report 2006-07

FCUFS, or the Faculty Senate Committee on University Facilities and Services, "...shall be responsible for all matters of policy relating to University facilities and services such as building needs, space utilization, supplies and equipment, administrative services, and parking and traffic problems. Faculty Code, Sec 42-47." We met on seven occasions between Sept. 2006 and May 2007.

A broad mix of issues comes before FCUFS annually. FCUFS examines each of them primarily for their impacts on UW's academic program, leaving details of the designs and implementation to the Capital Projects office or other administrative units. Here are the highlights.

#### UW Tower

Among the major items on our agenda this year, the occupation of the UW Tower is perhaps the most significant, at least potentially. According to a document from the Regents (Sept 06) "This landmark transaction promises to expand academic space in the heart of main campus and in west campus as administrative units are targeted for relocation to the Safeco building." "The purchase will also enable the University to consolidate in the University District programs and operations that are scattered in leased space throughout the city, bringing these activities in much closer proximity to the University."

The Tower was on the agendas of every FCUFS meeting this year, and Marilyn Cox, the coordinator of the effort to plan for the population of the Tower was attended every meeting or sent a delegate. FCUFS imagined that the Tower could conceivably lead to the opening of valuable space on the central or south campuses, allowing extremely space-constrained programs room to grow. As of this writing, financial exigencies associated with limited state funding for the Tower, have severely limited the effort to open academic space elsewhere. Much of the 300,000 sq ft of space will have to be leased to generate a revenue stream, at least for now.

#### MicroEngineering Building

Another major item that came before FCUFS this year is the site for a new building for MicroEngineering. As originally conceived, the building was primarily to be a research space where active groups of faculty and students is scattered departments could build a team and a cluster of laboratories in which to pursue this rapidly expanding and exciting field of research. FCUFS was asked to comment on the selection of possible sites which, for seismic reasons, could not be proximate to large roads with heavy vehicles or close to the proposed route of the Sound Transit metro line through campus. While we enthusiastically endorse the purpose of the building, the sites proposed were all on the crowded central campus where space for classes is at an absolute premium, especially in the long term as the campus grows in population and complexity. FCUFS recommended that alternate sites for the building outside the central campuses be carefully studied. They were not.

The question of the site for the MicroEngineering Building raised the general issue of how land

should be allocated on the central campus, which is the heart of U.W.'s education-oriented academic program, especially for undergraduates. Among other attributes, it is the only area in which students can move from one class to another in the allotted 10 minutes. FCUFS, with the help of Gary Quarfoth and Colleen Pike, helped us to research extant policies for land use within UW Master Plan. We find that although these policies are quite reasonable, we recommended to the Provost that future building sites on the central campus undergo special scrutiny and evaluation for their positive impact on UW's long-term educational mission as any part of an approval process.

#### SR 520 Expansion

FCUFS was briefed several times by Peter Dewey and Aaron Hoard and Peter Dewey on state plans for a ramp from SR520 to the region near Husky Stadium and associated modifications to the roads in the vicinity. The design issues are extremely complex, involving vehicular movement of all sorts through a large area of Seattle in which the UW is (unfortunately) strategically located. We considered the possible long-term academic impacts of the proposed WSDOT plans, including the movement of people from the rapidly growing east side, opportunities to improve mass transit to UW, the availability of a larger market of affordable housing for young faculty, and similar issues. However, we were unable to reach concrete recommendations before the deadline for responding to the draft EIS. Our discussion points became part of a general UW response submitted to the state by Weldon Ihrig in behalf of UW.

#### Other Items in Brief

- Business School: FCUFS considered and eventually approved plans for an annex to the Business School that will displace parking lot N3
- Moore Hall Reactor: FCUFS considered and approved plans for grounds renovation at the former site of a reactor near Moore Hall
- Gerberding Bell Tower: FCUFS considered and approved plans to renovate the bell tower in Gerberding Hall and to install new working bells
- Employee ID: FCUFS considered and approved plans for a new employee card and transit identity pass
- East Campus: FCUFS reviewed early plans for a major renovation of the East campus, presently in the design stage
- Dept. Psychology: FCUFS was informed of space restrictions by the Dept of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences and the impact of the limited space on their ability to recruit and retain faculty and valuable research programs
- Husky Union Building: FCUFS reviewed very early plans for a major renovation of the Hub, scheduled for groundbreaking in 2011
- Faculty/Staff Housing: FCUFS reviewed very early ideas for faculty and staff housing that might later be built on vacant land included in the purchase of Safeco properties
- Weldon Ihrig: FCUFS received a long-term perspective of facilities and services needs from Weldon Ihrig, retiring Executive Vice President, who main concern has become responsible environmental stewardship and campus safety

Council Members: Professors Bruce Balick (Chair), Donna Berry, Howard Chizeck, Sarah Nash Gates, Laura Little, Charles Moore, William Rorabaugh, John Schaufelberger, Charles Treser; ex officio members: Charles Chamberlin (AUWL representative), Charles Kennedy (Associate Vice President, Facilities Services)(President's Designee), and Mark Schoen (PSO representative)