

Infrastructure Council Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2020

1:00 p.m.

via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96230746388?pwd=ejdwU0thNldxdjBFdEg3bzM5WEFYQT09>

Present: Richard Scholtz, Angelos Barmpoutis, Matthew Diller, Nicholas Meyer, Ray Issa, Gail Hansen, Laurie Bialosky, Breann Garbas, Carlos Dougnac, Craig Hill, Frank LoMonte, Jonathan Orsini, Keith Rambo, Keith Schneider, Ray G. Thomas, and Shannon Dunn.

1. Call to Order - Richard Scholtz, Infrastructure Council Chair

-The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. Approval of February 10, 2020 Minutes

-The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report - Richard Scholtz, Infrastructure Council Chair

-An overview of the Steering Committee meeting held two weeks ago, where the [agenda for today's 3:00 Faculty Senate meeting](#) was established, was provided.

4. Election of 2020-2021 Infrastructure Council Chair - Ray G. Thomas, Past Faculty Senate Chair

-Richard Scholtz was elected.

5. Campus Master Plan & Graduate Student Housing - Jonathan Orsini, Graduate Student Council President

-UF will stop bringing in new graduate students to its on-campus housing in 2021 and will close Maguire Village and University Village South in 2023.

-Graduate Student Council is concerned that this demolition is not in the best interest of students and faculty and is particularly concerned about its impact on international graduate students, who make up approximately 70% of the membership of this affordable, on campus housing. Other concerns include: the planned re-zoning of this area to recreational fields and parking; transparency and student and administrative partnership in decision-making for this issue and that of graduate housing being used for COVID quarantining; the lack of a current viable plan to replace closed graduate student housing; and access to, and details from, a past student survey which was taken about two years ago and which asked about the willingness of students to pay higher rent to remain on campus.

-Infrastructure Council noted it recognized that the university has been prevented from making any housing fee increases and is therefore now unable to maintain its current housing inventory. As older buildings are demolished, the problem of replacement housing remains, particularly given that in the Campus Master Plan and in BOT discussions, a goal is to densify housing into a more core and centralized areas of campus.

-Student leadership would like increased communication with housing administration, who has indicated that renovation of these two structures has been deemed not feasible. Improvements would force a substantial increase in rent, so this has factored into the decision to close this housing. Converting lakeside to graduate student housing was also discussed.

-The Graduate Student Council is seeking Faculty Senate assistance in helping graduate student leadership with this issue. New annual graduate student leadership (through student elections) poses a challenge to cohesive communications with administration leadership, so the Graduate Student Council is maximizing its efforts to ensure a cohesive response to its housing concerns. Jonathan is a non-voting, graduate student member of the Faculty Senate and can raise this issue at the Faculty Senate 'open microphone', which is available to Senators and faculty at the end of each Senate meeting, if appropriate. The Infrastructure Council agreed it would like to first continue to explore this issue in council. It was clarified that the Infrastructure Council chair is a member of, and reports its council activities to, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. Chair Scholtz will help shepherd discussion of this issue.

-The December BOT approval of the Campus Master Plan was discussed. The plan is an outline of where the university wants to be in ten years but doesn't speak to the timing of all the infrastructure, such as projects for steamed and chilled water, electrical, etc., which will be dismantled and upgraded on campus over the next three years. Some projects are under contract, some are still being designed, some are under bids, but all contribute to a good overall picture which council's administrative liaison, Carlos Dougnac can speak to.

-The council would like more information on housing in the master plan, including condition assessments. The recent Housing Master Plan by VMDO Architects provides some of the data that informed the decision making. It was agreed that the architects could present data to this council including surveying and their analysis investigative study work.

-Council expressed the need to continue to relay to the Board of Trustees how important graduate students are to the university entities, especially as trustees continue discussions on enhancing the undergraduate experience at Florida's public universities. Council also discussed that graduate students do find themselves being defined and viewed as 'in between' the middle ground of faculty and students, and facilitating a broader communication to trustees would be helpful.

-Council chair invited Jonathan to continue to attend this meeting.

6. Business Affairs Regulation - Craig Hill, Associate VP of Business Services

-Associate VP Hill provided an overview of a potential regulation change and policy update. The proposal is a culmination effort of the work of a large group of stakeholders over the past two years to overhaul the university space regulation.

The proposed regulations are considered under public functions and aim to more accurately reflect the university mission and help clarify the use of space by third parties. One central policy is proposed in place of the smattering which now exists. The new policy will be published on a new policy web page and classifies the different type of space and facilities available to third party users; outlines fees; and provides a central, accessible, and transparent information site.

-Except to clearly outline the process of the reservation and use of space, it is anticipated this regulation will not highly impact faculty. Internal and faculty space users are prioritized over outside users. The priorities of internal vs. external users and how users/units are defined through ancillary and institutional needs was discussed and defined. This proposal will not regulate the DSO's or the Foundation and does not supersede any Athletic Association policies.

-Council discussed the degree to which it would like to be informed about these regulations as their drafting continues and agreed it would like to receive any information summary to keep council updated. Craig Hill will work with the General Counsel's Office to distribute the regulation as drafted, a summary of what is being modified, and a final update. He will present these items at the

October 15 Faculty Senate meeting as an Information Item. The BOT will vote on them at its December meeting.

7. 2020-2021 AY Agenda Suggestions

- Campus Master Plan Updates & Discussions
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Update of Facilities
- Police Training & Facilities Budgets
- Emergency Management and consideration of the budgetary and the structural support needed in the COVID environment, especially with the reduction of the number of on campus students.
- Deferred Maintenance and its impact on the availability of campus facilities.
- Parking, with attention to the availability of both on and offsite campus parking.
- Campus Climate Action Plan / Sustainability
- COVID-19 Current and Anticipated Budgetary Impacts
- Infrastructure for student sequestration during COVID. Council Chair noted that the Provost mentioned in the last Steering Committee meeting that UF can't officially release the location of quarantined students or employees in dorms because of privacy rights and considerations of those diagnosed with COVID. UF must protect the identity of those who have COVID.
- An inquiry was made about remediation fees that the university is required to pay to local governments. Concern about these impacts on the UF budget, particularly Garage 14 and the cap on the master plan, was expressed. Examining if such fees imposed on UF is done at the state level and requesting repeal and additional information from Vice President for Government and Community Relations, Mark Kaplan, was discussed. Increasing awareness of the impact of university buildings on its host communities and financial burdens imposed on the universities, especially in relation to the equitability of restrictions and caps between academic institutions and outside contractors/industries, may be an issue which the Board of Governors (BOG) should address. Although local governments have worked well with, and been receptive to, dialogue with the university, it may still be helpful to compare the impact fees and other fees imposed on other developers in the county in comparison to UF, especially as it can impact the university's continued growth.
- UF/UPD Advisory Council Committee – Past Faculty Senate Chair Ray Thomas serves on this committee on behalf of Faculty Senate and will share information, particularly their facility requests and budgets, with council. The BOT has continued to emphasize safety, remains cognizant of the tragedy at Parkland, and the need to take strong preventative measures to ensure campus safety.

8. Reporting of Contributing Committees:

•Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee (J) -- Gail Hansen

-The committee has approved the public safety building, the special collections building, and the honors dorm residential college building and advocated the preservation of some heritage trees. The committee also approved fence replacement and artificial turn on Maguire Field. It has also approved the Data Science Building and additional trees on north side of the building. It has denied a proposal for a new Reitz Union fountain to honor veterans because the pond is designated as a conservation area and is a sinkhole. The committee met with sinkhole experts who clarified issues with the inversion of the temperature layers of the pond water. The committee expressed enthusiasm about the effort to honor veterans and encouraged the proposal presenters to provide more feasible options as their several, initial proposals were denied.

•Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee (J) -- Tim Young

-Tim Young is unable to attend today's meeting but forwarded a reference link to the committee's minutes and its administrative liaisons' responses. He also noted that the committee was very active over the summer. It reviewed and approved eight major projects and has been reviewing the Campus Master Plan updates.

•University IT Committee (S) – Shannon Dunn / Ray Issa

- The committee will have its first meeting of the academic year at the end of the month and in the Spring addressed the operations of Information Technology in the COVID environment and the move to online and hybrid course delivery.

•University Libraries Committee (S) – Angelos Barmpoutis

-The committee has been addressing: operations of the University Libraries in the COVID environment; UF author rights policies, diversity, equity and inclusion resources; open access; and budgetary updates over the summer.

•Parking and Transportation Committee (PATC) (J) – Keith Rambo

-Keith Rambo submitted this [PATC report](#).

9. New Business

-Discussion on the Campus Master Plan is suggested for the October meeting.

10. Adjournment

-The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.