

Infrastructure Council Minutes
November 18, 2014 3pm – 5pm
ARCH 331

Present: Dimitri Bourilkov, Tara Cataldo, Megan Forbes, Mark McCallister, Jeffrey Roth, Ray G. Thomas, Hans van Oostrom, Bradley Walters, Ann Wehmeyer, and Caroline Wiltshire.

The meeting was called to order by Bradley Walters at 3:00 p.m., introductions were made and minutes from 23 October 2014 were approved with revisions. Dimitri Bourilkov was added to the list of those present. Under New Business, the last sentence of the second bullet was revised to read “Agreements preclude faculty involvement.” Ray Thomas indicated that as Chair of the Parking and Transportation Committee, he was provided with a confidential copy of the Parking Privatization Report prepared by Walker Parking Consultants. He indicated that he would inquire as to whether that report could be shared with Council members.

Contributing Committee Reports

- **Senate Steering Committee (S)** – Bradley Walters
 - The schedule for completing updates to the campus master plan was reviewed.
 - Classroom/teaching infrastructure was discussed relative to evolving educational models. The misalignment between curricular structures and legacy spaces is a common concern in many facilities across campus. The difference between college-controlled and registrar-controlled spaces leads to some unevenness in the kinds of spaces available across campus.
 - Academic Technology manages most equipment upgrades and assists in resolution of immediate issues through discussions with Associate Deans in the different colleges. The role of faculty in this process is largely missing.
 - There does not appear to be a strategic process in place to review space needs relative to teaching strategies. Most recent improvements on campus were initiated by individual units or on a space-by-space basis.
- **Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee (J)** – Gail Hansen
 - No report.
- **Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Committee (J)** – Joe Authmuth
 - No report.
- **Parking and Transportation Committee (J)** – Ray G. Thomas
 - O’Connell Center renovation/addition project was approved. There was minor concern regarding lay down areas and fences at the curb line. The Committee asked for fences to be moved back to edge of sidewalk instead for most of the work, with the sidewalks closed for a short time as needed for project work.
 - The Sigma Kappa Sorority is planning to demolish and replace their facility with a new sorority house. On-street parking was rejected as it was deemed problematic relative to safety concerns.
 - UF Athletic Association Farrier Hall addition will displace existing gated parking lot near Dauer Hall.
 - State vehicles used for research and teaching have to pay a fee to park on campus. There was discussion about supporting these “mobile laboratories” without requiring punitive costs/expenses.

- Car pool spaces on campus are undersubscribed. There was discussion about time-limiting the car pool spaces to the hours of 7:30a to 9:30a, after which the spaces would be open to Orange decals and/or other decals, to be determined.
- There was a concern raised about the south entrance of the Norman Hall garage. The four-way uncontrolled intersection as you enter the garage is an area of concern relative to scooter traffic in this area.
- **Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee (J)** – Megan Forbes
 - A temporary building for the Department of Health Outcomes was approved.
 - Campus Master Plan 2025 Update was discussed, including updates to future land uses.
- **Sustainability Committee (J)** – Tara Cataldo
 - A task force within the Committee has reviewed the guiding principles component of the campus master plan 2025 relative to sustainability issues.
- **University Libraries Committee (S)** – Jeffrey Roth
 - Expanded colonnade outside Library West has been approved, with the goal of linking the libraries visually and providing additional student study spaces.
 - With regards to parking privatization, smaller parking areas near the library used by administration may be affected. Discussion about local control of spaces by nearby building occupants should be incorporated into privatization review document.
- **Faculty IT Subcommittee** – Mark McCallister
 - No report.

New Business – Parking Privatization

- UF currently has bonding capacity for one more garage to be built.
- There are currently 24,003 parking spaces on campus, including 10,045 structured parking/garage spaces and 13,958 surface parking spaces.
- Existing parking revenue is used: a) to fund transportation/parking services, b) to provide for maintenance and facility upgrades (especially lighting), c) to fund campus cab program, d) to pay overhead to UF (as an auxiliary), and e) to pay overhead to business services.
- Parking saved \$80,000 in plastic placards and \$50,000 in associated mailing costs by eliminating plastic placard system.
- There was discussion about electronic monitoring systems that would provide “just in time” notifications regarding space availability and the ability to locate/pay for spaces with mobile apps. The visitor parking adjacent to the Reitz Union was discussed as a possible test site.
- When parking privatization was initially introduced, there was some understanding that this could raise \$110-million in funding for UF, however the actual anticipated return on investment is believed to be much lower, based on the confidential Morgan Stanley report.
- Strategies for increasing parking revenue were discussed, including parking fines increasing from \$20 to \$50, event parking increases from \$2 to \$6, and increasing meter costs to \$1.50 per hour (50% increase over existing). These and other options are available to UF now, whether or not parking privatization is pursued.
- There was some discussion about the latent philosophical question: Do we want to make money and profit on faculty, staff, and student parking fees?
- Increasing cost of parking by 10% will likely correlate to a 1% decrease in the use of parking.
- There was discussion about pro-rating parking based on salary, for those with salaries of less than \$50,000 per year.
- It was noted that UF faculty pay less than those at peer institutions.

- Risks to concessionaire include: a) dropping enrollment, b) changing attitudes of millennials and reduced interest in driving, c) permit sales down at all universities, d) MOOCs and faculty hiring freezes, and e) vehicle sharing and/or driverless vehicles.
- Annual increases in permit costs need to be indexed to cost of living salary increases for faculty.
- With parking privatization, state employees will become private employees, likely with lower salaries and fewer benefits. This is a potential negative of privatization that should be included in council report.
- There was some discussion about how green/sustainable strategies might continue to be incorporated on campus, including guidance systems, electric charging stations, photo-voltaic installations over parking spaces/garages, and connections with transit including bicycle storage at transit centers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 18.