

# Infrastructure Council Year-End Report 2021-22

Submitted July 8, 2022

## Responsibilities

This council focuses on the University's infrastructure supporting its academic mission, including the provision of physical facilities and other physical resources: libraries; information technology; the campus master plan' and the availability of adequate computer, classroom, laboratory, and other resources.

### Senate and Student Members

Keith Rambo, [rambo@ufl.edu](mailto:rambo@ufl.edu) (Chair)

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### Contributing Committee Chairs

Ann Baird, [abbaird@ufl.edu](mailto:abbaird@ufl.edu) - Preservation of Historic Buildings Committee

Gail Hansen de Chapman, [ghansen@ufl.edu](mailto:ghansen@ufl.edu) - Lakes, Vegetation & Landscaping Committee

Raymond Issa, [raymond-issa@ufl.edu](mailto:raymond-issa@ufl.edu) - Information Technology Committee

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Keith Rambo, [rambo@ufl.edu](mailto:rambo@ufl.edu) - Parking and Transportation

Timothy Young, [tsy@ufl.edu](mailto:tsy@ufl.edu) - Land Use and Facilities

### Administrative Liaison Members

Carlos Dougnac, [cdougnac@ufl.edu](mailto:cdougnac@ufl.edu) - Facilities Planning

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## Charge

The Infrastructure Council met on 9/8, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, 1/12, 2/2, 3/2 and 4/6. Early on the Council set an agenda of the following issues, though was only able to address a few during the 2021-22 academic year:

- COVID infrastructure and budget impacts.
- Emergency management / UFPD updates.
- Privacy and physical security issues pertaining to camera installations around Baby Gator
- Shared governance in carrying out all elements of the Campus Master Plan.
- Campus Master Plan updates and challenges.
- The Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping (LVL) Establish consistent conservation management across campus; a conservation campus master plan is needed.
- Continue the graduate housing affordability and accessibility conversation.
- Graduate student parking.
- UF Health parking issues; learn more about overcrowding issues.

- Increase the use of the faculty lounge.

## Graduate Housing Affordability and Accessibility conversation

A [Student Senate Maguire/University Village South \(UVS\) Resolution](#) was brought to the committee condemning the action taken in regards to graduate housing in the Campus Master Plan. The committee was also presented a [Raymer F. Maguire, III letter](#). An eminent domain attorney and the namesake of UF's Maguire housing, Mr. Maguire requests amendment of the Campus Master Plan to retain or make affordable graduate housing available.

There were meetings held on 12/20, 1/5 and 4/6 with Faculty Senate Chair Dr. David C. Bloom, Infrastructure Council Chair Professor Keith Rambo, Graduate Student Council President Paul Wassel, Maguire Village Mayor Derek LaMontagne, Mayors' Council President Kavindri Ranasinghe and Chair-elect Amanda Phalin. Chair Bloom and Chair Rambo met with Chad Doering at the properties on 2/10 to inspect the status of the property. At this property review it was demonstrated that these properties exterior construction will not prevent water intrusion, and that due to the age of these properties, in order to make them appropriately safe they require a full reconstruction of exterior, interior renovation and water/power infrastructure replacement. These matters were taken to the December Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting where solutions to provide affordable housing were discussed and the BOTs were in favor of providing solutions to this issue.

## Conservation Management

A Steering Committee has been established for the Conservation Management Plan and they will visit all 22 conservation sites on campus, such as the Reitz Ravine, Liberty Pond, and McCarty Woods.

## Pedestrian Safety

Council discussed what actions UF can take in addressing off campus speed limits. UF influence over roadway decision declines the further away the roadways are from campus. Council discussed a useful framing in addressing such issues. UF police, administration, engineers, and city governments collaborate to make, for example, bus route decisions so such cooperation can also exist when addressing on and off campus traffic issues, which have the same elements of traffic flow and the same community and campus members; action is needed and can be taken.

A Parking and Transportation Committee (PATC) Task Force is addressing concerns pertaining to issues surrounding high hoods vehicles. Definable goals which can be implemented will be explored and recommendations will be brought before this council for any needed votes.

## Central Energy Plant and CAP 2.0

The Sustainability Office provided a '[Climate Considerations for the New UF Central Energy Plant \(CEP\)](#)' white paper that relayed that, upon operation, the new UF Central Energy Plant will reduce UF's overall carbon emissions by 25% but will still be the largest carbon emissions generator on campus. One key consideration is that UF needs a replacement for steam. Producing sources for this outside of natural gas is a challenge for everyone. The co-generation process was discussed.

Lynn Frazier, League of Women Voters of Alachua County (LWVAC) President

LWVAC contacted Faculty Senate Chair David C. Bloom to share league concerns about environmental issues.

The LWVAC advocates that:

--a gas-fired energy plant is not compatible to university and county sustainability initiatives. It has lobbied elected officials to increase sustainable resources and has written to the Governor to share concerns about climate changes disruptions. While many universities consider climate change when making policies, UF and the city of Gainesville have been proactively setting 2025 carbon neutrality goals.

-- it should be made clear if overall emissions reduction for UF will take place with the use of a new fossil fuel plant.

--UF has partnered with a notable sustainable firm, Jacobs Engineering, since 2017 and has been exploring the best available short- and long-term campus options.

--There is a short term need to become steam independent by 2027.

--Because of UF's current solar mix availability, UF has a reduced carbon footprint. UF has reviewed countless technologies; the Duke energy plant is beyond its useful life. It produces no electricity for UF.

--In the event of a natural disaster, UF is establishing infrastructure in a way which allow it to continue to operate its facilities, which is critical to the community.

--To reduce UF's carbon footprint, UF is heavily focused on reducing energy per FTE / and on driving down square footage energy usage of its two million square feet, even while there is an increasing student population.

--UF and Assistant VP Helms have asked partners to look at how to introduce and incorporate clean technology. The need for examination of renewable sources so as not miss any emerging technologies and incorporating it into the current distribution system was discussed. UF is researching the set up of three hydrogen systems to optimize hydrogen use although some of this technology is not yet available for use.

--The new energy plant is more energy efficient and thus will reduce carbon footprint.

Council discussed a small modular nuclear reactor option and its modular design; potential costs were discussed, as well as if the new federal infrastructure bill which just passed might offer a window of opportunity.

Ariel Pomputius, Sustainability Committee Chair: The committee created a resolution which was approved by the majority of the Sustainability Committee. The goal is to ask Infrastructure Council to sponsor a resolution to move forward to the Faculty Senate. [Sustainability Comm Energy Plant Draft Resolution](#)

Resolution was presented and approved by Faculty Senate on January 20, 2022, meeting.

## IT Infrastructure Update

IT to assist in establishing consistent university-wide syllabi posting and a possible Canvas syllabus template for faculty. The committee met where Chris Hass gave overview of Canvas' minimal requirements for all courses (for grading consistency, etc.). with support for most undergraduate courses but less helpful for some graduate courses. Independent research courses are not included in the Canvas requirements.

## Deferred Maintenance

A [Library East Project](#) document was presented. It was sent by the project architects to the COO and Provost and provides a detailed assessment and projects cost estimates for the remaining scope of work to repair the exterior building envelope of the Historic Smathers Library East. Elements of this project are

included in the campus-wide list of deferred maintenance projects. The Council discussed that State University System (SUS) Chancellor Marshall Crisler seeks deferred maintenance funds, so it is on the Board of Governors (BOG)'s radar.

A [Smathers Deferred Renewal Projects List](#) was shared. The list is informational and includes multiple projects and priorities, so this is meant to be a general reference document. UF has been trying to upgrade Smathers Library, through projects which include HVAC, roofing, envelope work. Fundraising is still being done for outside seating areas near the colonnade and other related projects.

## Committee Reports

### Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee Report

There will be new traffic signals installed on Museum Road at Sweetwater Drive and at Newell and Museum. New crosswalks are also being implemented.

The SW Recreation expansion on the NW corner was approved.

The Design, Construction & Planning (DCP) site selection on the North side of the architectural building was approved.

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The committee met and discussed Maguire Village facilities and Baby Gator food provisions. It also discussed and approved the shared path along the Physics building.

Harn addition: removes 80 parking spaces. Need to find replacement parking.

The other addition removes a few parking spaces and the trees, though results in overall more green space.

IFAS: adding plant pathology building.

### Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Report

The committee met in May and approved a Campus Master Plan change pertaining to the removal of part of McCarty Woods from that plan and into conservation. Cydney presented preliminary plans of the architecture building, including the siding and exterior plans.

### University Libraries Committee Report

Resources & Services / Josepha Cheong, ULC Chair

Senior Associate Dean Reakes provided an overview of the compact shelving project in Library West where many books can be maneuvered to a compressed area with easy accessibility. The system has been used extensively and is becoming less functional. A staff member needs to physically move the shelves with a machine to provide resource access for patrons.

University Libraries initially discussed the project with Facility Services about three years ago.

It is a unique item for preventative maintenance and while hardware and software have been updated, some machine components and software are now unavailable.

COO Charlie Lane, CFO Chris Cowen, and Provost Joe Glover agreed to fund the project start- up in January.

The most frequently used items on the second floor will serve as the pilot for the project, which will take three to four months to complete.

There are safety, sensor, lighting, and software issues which make the project a complex one.

Core pieces will remain during this upgrade. The shelving is expected to last at least 20 years but in the long term, Smathers will repurpose the space into other uses and utilize remote storage facilities, reduce book purchases of print materials, etc.

Materials will remain accessible during the project. Senior Associate Dean Reakes responded to a request to consult with faculty in the social sciences before books are moved to a remote storage location by clarifying that this is a long-term vision and that the second and third floors used to house more print journals and reference materials which have since become e- resources. Faculty members expressed appreciation that the University Libraries are aiming for and maintaining a generous depth and breadth of resource materials.

### University Information Technology Committee Report

A campus physical security presentation was made by Joe Souza, Director of Physical Security. The committee is interested in him visiting annually and Chair Issa suggests that he visit this council in the future to provide an update from his office.

The committee discussed the differences in the level of UFIT service and accessibility between the Health Science Center (HSC) spaces and main campus. Many HSC faculty are unhappy with the annual costs charged for desktops and laptops needed for personnel who fall under the clinical umbrella. The special needs, many specific to patient confidentiality measures, are translating to expenses which may be more costly for HSC departments than for main campus faculty/counterparts. Many HSC faculty have also asked that specialized IT support needs (often for complex and confidential research and clinical projects) to be better met. Any updates will be shared with council.

Met with HiPerGator team to get progress update:

### Parking and Transportation Committee Report

Green decal parking spaces are used by all decals above green, particularly in the O'Connell Center. The committee would like to explore the feasibility of having dedicated green parking spaces. Options to assign parking spaces to single decal colors (rather than the current tiered system where blue decals can park in green spaces, etc.), and charging differently for decals may be considered. Chair Rambo has contacted Scott Fox, Director of Transportation and Parking Services, for feedback.

A subcommittee is addressing the points council discussed in October related to hazardous vehicles and Linda Dixon, Director of Planning in UF's Planning, Design, & Construction, has been added to this working group.

Baby Gator suggestions are being made for a parking one-way lot flow and allowance of space for bikes and trailers, and discussion was held regarding how to beautify the area where large dumpsters are located.

PATC discussed shared pathways and the addition of new crosswalk and walkway lighting.

Tom Hawkins, Instructional Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, presented six bullet points to PATC outlining campus vehicular traffic concerns, Slides were shared regarding the committee's discussion of the:

[Harn Art Museum schematic design](#)

[IFAS building modification \(for IFAS Project 201021\).](#)

Traffic pattern around the chilling plant.

Setting up a staging area for the construction of the weight room.

Possible re-scheduling of next week's meeting due to its conflict with Spring Break.

Council discussed the amount of space being taken up by RVs by Fifield Hall and the lack of parking.

A complaint was received and shared from a UF weekend staff member that parking by the Architecture building and the Tigert Hall area was unavailable.

It was noted that during a recent job fair, the Design, Construction & Planning College departments had vendors transporting their products with large trucks, which took up two parking spaces.

Parking and Transportation has a subcommittee dealing with large vehicles on campus and bicyclists and pedestrians.

### Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee Report

There is an ongoing algae problem in Lake Alice. Many complaints were received this summer and Director of Planning in Planning, Design & Construction, Linda Dixon, and Office of Sustainability Director, Matt Williams, are conferring on a lake plan. An inquiry was made about debris collection and silt at the lake. The tributaries to Lake Alice are also filling with silt. Lake dredging would be several million dollars but

there is concern that inaction will result in Lake Alice becoming swampy.

Solutions are being examined such as identifying who is responsible for maintenance and cleanup of this area.

Council discussed impacts on campus wetlands from fertilizing, campus construction and fencing, etc. A new boardwalk and overlook system are being considered for a future Lake Alice construction project. The residential undergraduate complex removed several trees to accommodate a sidewalk. Mitigation for this project is 67 new trees.

The committee approved the removal of one tree and landscaping at the SW Recreation Center building. The committee discussed the new roundabout by Radio Road and addressing the lake house drainage problem by adding a new basin to ease flooding.

Minor changes to some hardscape and to bike racks are being made in accommodating the Campus Master Plan.

McCarty chilled water extension lines are being extended south of Rinker Hall and the committee approved the removal of ten trees.

The addition of 16 trees including 11 palms, behind Rinker Hall, and extending to Broward Hall, were approved.

The committee is reviewing UF's tree mitigation policy.

To accommodate shifting utilities, the committee approved the removal of 11 trees for the McCarty chilled water extension and seven for the Gator residential extension. At the next council meeting, Chair Hansen will share information obtained from her colleagues at her recent professional conference pertaining to measures taken during COVID which may be helpful to remain in effect.

The committee approved the P.K. Yonge covered court construction and the Baby Gator mitigation tree plan.

The committee will be continuing discussion pertaining to McCarty Woods. Florida Museum of Natural History Distinguished Professor Dr. Doug Soltis has helped lead a group of volunteer students who have been removing invasive species the past six months.

Clearing was done along the edging due to a miscommunication; it was thought that the conservation area went right to the road but there are setbacks.

Following inquiries and council discussion, Assistant VP Helms relayed to council that UF Director of Planning Linda Dixon joined a meeting with this group in which the conservation area was discussed, and it was clarified that Facility Services were within the proper boundaries and did not encroach in the conservation area. The meeting was a positive one and it was decided that the conservation management plan (CALM), which has not been updated since about 2005, will be updated. The plan will begin in the McCarty area and will clearly and physically mark the conservation boundaries, including updated mapping and management boundaries. A separate management plan will be prepared for each area, such as the Liberty Pond (located next to the Reitz Union), Harmonic Woods, and the areas near Law School, P.K. Yonge, Lake Alice, etc.

The committee met and discussed the new undergraduate facility, including the associated loss of trees, etc. This was approved.

The committee discussed trees along Museum Road and the Campus Master Plan, including the master plan for shared use along the Physics path.

There is a Faculty Senate Bylaws request to increase LVL's membership from 6 (current) to 10. This item is being presented by the University Constitution & Regulations Committee this week at the Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting.

Council discussed if an alternative to increasing LVL's membership may be to remove non-active committee members, which would help improve overall participation and quorum, particularly when resolution votes occur. The LVL prefers to increase its membership as it will still be a small committee, even if the membership increase is approved.

NW Gateway construction (by Tigert Hall): Some old utility lines were discovered during a parking lot excavation. Some proposed utility lines will now be re-routed, and eight trees will be removed. The removal of a 29" Shumard Oak tree was vigorously discussed by the LVL Committee, with three members in

favor and two opposed. The motion passed following discussion which included that this large of a tree and species should not have ever been initially placed in a small parking lot island. Options to move utilities around the tree were also discussed. Following inquiries from council, Chair Hansen clarified that this tree did not meet requirements for heritage tree protection.

There was unanimous LVL Committee approval for the removal of Harn Museum area parking lot trees, including eight Palms, one Magnolia, and two Laurel Oaks.

A Steering Committee has been established for the Conservation Management Plan and they will visit all 22 conservation sites on campus through May 11, such as the Reitz Ravine, Liberty Pond, and McCarty Woods. There will be a weekly follow up meeting.

The tree mitigation policy, including the size of palms and how many to plant for mitigation purposes, is being re-written.

The invasive plant species list is being updated and more native ground coverings and shrubs are being added across campus.

The committee is awaiting a Faculty Senate vote this month on its request to increase this joint committee's faculty membership from six to ten members, including five elected by Faculty Senate and five appointed.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith J. Rambo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith J Rambo, Infrastructure Council Chair