

Infrastructure Council Minutes

March 2, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

160 Pugh Hall or if needed via:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91517085781?pwd=WEFqSHJLUVRvZUhwcnNsQWtkaUladz09>

Present: Keith Rambo, Ann Baird, Ray Issa, Mark Helms, Alex Wong, Walter O'Dell, Cydney McGlothlin, Amanda Phalin, Breann Garbas, Tim Young, Laurie Bialosky, Yousong Ding, Gail Hansen, and Shea Booster.

1. Call to Order – Keith Rambo, Chair

- The meeting was called to order by Infrastructure Council Chair Keith Rambo at 10:04 a.m.

2. Approval of February 2, 2022 Minutes

- The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report / Steering Committee Update

- In response to an inquiry forwarded to council about providing feminine products in UF buildings, VP Helms clarified that the Office of Student Affairs is actively handling this issue and, to aid in easing financial burdens for UF community members, has re-doubled efforts to make these products available at the [UF Fork & Field Pantry](#).

- Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2.0 is expected to be finished next month, at which time Sustainability Chair Ariel Pomputius may be able to provide an update in her report to council.

- Faculty central energy plant inquiries persist, including what metrics were used when the decision was made to purchase natural gas to power the central energy plant. Currently, 17 percent of the world's natural gas comes from Russia, which has just engulfed itself in a war with Ukraine; global markets are expressing much concern about possible ensuing ramifications and uncertainties. At what price point, per hundred cubic feet, might a different or re-affirming decision be made by UF?

- Assistant VP Helms shared that, as the process moves forward, UF wants utility providers, vendors, and bidders to come in with creative ideas and using their experience of what they have utilized in other similar, successful projects. UF is finalizing details through its financial advisor Goldman Sachs as well as its legal advisors.

- Council discussed the need to obtain the data early enough to make recommendations. Council discussed Council Chair Rambo touching base with VP of Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds to have a more informed, nuanced, transparent, and in-depth discussion on this issue. Additional information will assist all UF parties in functioning optimally and with due diligence.

- Assistant VP Helms advised of the potential for infrastructure grant funding. UF is

working with third parties for grants for: wastewater, storm water, permitting, etc.

4. Air Quality Update - Mark Helms, Assistant VP for UF's Facilities Services Division and Sustainability

- VP Helms reviewed the navigation path for the UF community to locate air quality information: navigate via the Information tab / Classroom Air Exchange Data tabs @: <https://www.facilitieservices.ufl.edu/information/>
- UF users may perform searches by inputting the name of a building to review air quality in the 250 spaces which falls under the domain of the UF Registrar.
- There are now over 750 teaching spaces on campus and more spaces have been added to this search tool this semester. Updates and monitoring will continue to help implement as many fresh air exchanges as possible in each space.
- If a space cannot be located in the online list, please email the names of the affiliated college; department; room number; and building to markhelms@ufl.edu.
- The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) is a global professional association which sets the standard for the mechanical side of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems design and construction. ASHRAE uses a 4.0 general standard, so that is what UF shoots for and meets at a minimum in its air quality measurements.
- There is also ongoing review for mold, mildew, and other possible sources of air contamination. The Facilities Services Division and Sustainability have viewed technologies of relevance and continue to consult with UF Health.
- This office also works with campus spaces with LEED technology. How other air handling systems work was also discussed.
- UF personnel are being physically sent into the teaching spaces with air flow monitors and coordination with departments is taking place. Some spaces are classified as teaching labs.
- Air monitoring in research laboratories was discussed, including that most labs are not designed for or aim to maximize energy conservation; their primary focus is on maximum air draw to accommodate lab activities and functionality. Assistant VP Helms confirmed that a huge amount of fresh air is being continually pushed through lab spaces.

5. Election of 2021-2022 Infrastructure Council Chair

- A motion to elect Keith Rambo as council chair for the next academic year passed unanimously.

6. Reporting of Contributing Committees and Administrative Liaisons:

- **Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping (LVL) Committee (J) -- Gail Hansen**
 - 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.

- **Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Committee (J) – Ann Baird**

- No meeting has been held since council last met.

- **Parking and Transportation Committee (J) -- Keith Rambo**

- 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 RV's 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. Can additional parking be made available by opening one of the surface lots or permitting grass parking, instead of the third floor of Garage VII? The third floor was devoted to vendors but was full by 9:15 a.m. on job fair day.
- Parking and Transportation has a subcommittee dealing with large vehicles on campus and bicyclists and pedestrians.

- **Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee (J) -- Tim Young**
 - No meeting has been held since council last met.
- **University IT Committee (S) – Ray Issa**
 - 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) be better met. Any updates will be shared with council.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.