

Infrastructure Council Minutes

April 6, 2022

10:00 a.m.

160 Pugh Hall and via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91513142434?pwd=bjNTVUpWdTBMcHBTOVIHWmRSc1ZpUT09>

Meeting ID: 915 1314 2434 Passcode: 025542 Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656

Present: Keith Rambo, Cyndney McGlothlin, Walter O’Dell, Mark Hostetler, Wendell Porter, Amanda Phalin, Ann Baird, Alex Wong, Gail Hansen, Tim Young, Ray Issa, Laurie Bialosky, Nancy Clark, Mark Helms, Breann Garbas, Carlos Dougnac, and Matt Williams.

1. Call to Order – Keith Rambo, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Infrastructure Council Chair Keith Rambo.

2. Approval of March 2, 2022 Minutes

- The minutes were approved.

3. Chair’s Report / Steering Committee Update

- Professor Rambo shared that the Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee is reviewing Harn Museum items.

Faculty Central Energy Plant Town Hall was held last week and had approximately 60 attendees. Energy plant follow-ups will occur at the end of this meeting.

The Faculty Senate annual reception will be held next week at the Powell House.

4. Reporting of Contributing Committees and Administrative Liaisons:

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

The Museum of Natural History addition, located in the front, was discussed, including the need to remove 19 palm trees and two oaks. It was approved with a request to move the road to preserve one oak.

PK Yong: 22 trees are to be removed, 9 species, approved.

Other trees on campus: many palms being removed, some due to disease

- **University IT Committee (S) – Ray Issa**

Met with HiperGator team to obtain a progress update:

Professor Rambo inquired if Honor Lock can be covered by the University. Honor-lock is currently being paid for by school/departments who may not be using Zoom testing. The College of Engineering would consider not continuing to pay for it department-wide. Dr. Issa will bring this question to the University IT Committee.

- **Sustainability Committee (J) – Ariel Pomputius**

CAP 2.0: completed first draft and initial feedback. Checking buy-in at lower levels. Plan to release for higher-level and public approval by end of April.

Director of Sustainability Office, Matt Williams shared: 350 goals, strategies (4-6 per goal) and actions (4-8 per strategy) covered in the plan. CO2 goals from CAP 1.0 are still achievable, with offsets. Currently modeling the impact of the planned actions. Explains vision to be oil/carbon free. Are working with the groups on campus that would be involved in implementing these action plans.

An inquiry was raised regarding what plans there may be for public education and plan input. Matt Williams clarified that there have been four public sessions so far and an inaugural event is being planned when the plan is officially released.

An inquiry was raised regarding if there are solar credits applied to UF or to Duke, or both? Matt Williams responded that UF is paying for the solar energy credits (not the same as offsets) of green energy sources provided to us by Duke.

Faculty Senate Chair-elect Amanda Phalin noted that news reports indicate that CA's accounting for green credits are overreporting actual benefits. How do we be more forthcoming and accurate? Matt Williams noted that in education, there is an audit of credits. There is also a concern for merely buying enough credits to appear to be carbon neutral when it may not be beneficial in addressing the global problem.

The UF plan timing and opportunity for Faculty Senate input was discussed, including that the Sustainability Office expects public input will occur well through October; the team continues to finalize the project. They were expecting to have it completed in Nov. but continue to work on getting buy-in from all key stakeholders.

Credits vs. offsets were discussed. UF offsets can be applied only to energy and emissions. There are many other effects, e.g. travel, that are not quite accounted for.

The recent Faculty Senate town hall discussion on the central energy plant brought up strict rules for where and from whom we get our green (solar) energy. Matt Williams noted that Florida state policies are influenced by strong agents (including lobbyists) which may not be supportive of many green energy options. The CAP 2 does mention the need for legislative reform.

Was the net metering bill passed or signed? It is currently on the Governor's desk but is not signed.

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

Did not meet last month. Item: perhaps add a city of Gainesville member will attend the committee to provide feedback. It was asked if this was permissible. The Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee does have an outside-UF liaison.

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

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.

5. New Business

Central Energy Plant

UF faculty members Mark Hofstetler and Wendall Porter phoned into the council meeting to question the specs on the new energy plant design, noting that the current steam peak use is 140K lbs/hr, but plant specs are for 230k. Perhaps use the next five years to identify the most inefficient buildings to reduce steam needs? Install currently small gas steam generators that can be removed in short term without big financial cost, wait for design main plant for a reduced size?

Assistant VP for UF's Facilities Services Division and Sustainability, Mark Helms, noted that the specs for 140K are lower than the actual and that UF is still looking into on-campus solar (e.g., terracotta-appearing solar cells). Still have to consider what is viable to have in place in five years. Still plan to build with future changes in mind.

Professor Hofstetler asked which options are still on the table and it was clarified that, as of last week, all options are still being discussed, but gas will still be used for powering the steam generators. Slightly more than half of the energy plant output is the chilled water production and distribution (that is, more energy-consuming than generating steam).

Professor Porter, who is part of the CAP 2 energy group, opined that emphasis on improving building efficiency is needed. Assistant VP Helms noted that a second UF emphasis is on continuing to improve campus efficiency. The chilled water plant supplies only the south part of campus (hospital, medical research areas). Steam is for the entire campus. \$8M was proposed for temp. chiller plant, recently found to not be needed (can be achieved using existing infrastructure), so using the money elsewhere.

Increasing stakeholders' involvement and voices were discussed by the town hall panelists.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by Walter O'Dell, Infrastructure Council member.