

# Infrastructure Council Minutes

January 12, 2022

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

160 Pugh\*

\*if needed via: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92294163227?pwd=dVM5UkFUQTJvWjBESEE3VDZjbmlZUT09>

**Present:** Keith Rambo, Ray Issa, Rambo, Gail Hansen, Ariel Pomputius, Walter O'Dell, Amanda Phalin, Alex Wong, and Laurie Bialosky.

## 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 December 1, 2021 Minutes

- The minutes were approved as amended to include more specific details (in brown font below):

- Mark Helms, Assistant VP for UF's Facilities Services Division and Sustainability, is the contact to address central energy plant inquiries and he addressed the following points with council:

-- The creation of steam using means other than locally generated fossil fuel systems (such as electric boilers) would produce more CO<sub>2</sub> emission due to having to purchase power from Duke Energy which currently produce more CO<sub>2</sub> per kilowatt hour (KWh) than this new facility would using a system that has both co-generation (generate steam and electric power) and simultaneously run a combined cycle from the gas turbine with heat recovery systems running a second generator thereby making the unit have the highest efficiency available for this scale of facility.

-- The design will incorporate the ability to burn both natural gas and a mixture of natural gas and hydrogen. Assistant VP Helms indicated that if technology was further advanced on other viable systems that these would be used, and he is dedicated to meeting the goals for a carbon neutral campus.

## 3. Chair's Message

- Chair Rambo thanked council members for their service and for their thoughtful consideration of a number of higher profile issues which are currently under council's purview, and which may have short and long-term impacts on the university.

4. [Sustainability Committee Updated Draft Energy Plant Resolution](#) - Ariel Pomputius, Sustainability Committee Chair
- The resolution track and change between last and this month's resolution was reviewed. Separately, a recommendation has been sent by the Sustainability Committee to VP of Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds. It utilizes and expounds on key resolution points and encouraged increased transparency and maintaining shared governance cooperation.
  - Council inquiries and comments included:
    - A specific date of action has not been set in the resolution. Council discussed if the resolution's wording was specific enough regarding 'until further study' and in identifying experts and what they would specifically explore. UF faculty and researchers in fields such as Environmental, Electrical, Mechanical or Nuclear Engineering would be well-suited to offer their expertise.
    - Given the project's timeline, logistical concerns were considered, including if faculty have sufficient funding and time to review this project.
    - Natural gas and renewable energy cost comparisons were discussed; the world's supply of natural gas will be expended in 20 years, so long-term, it is more economical and feasible to not use natural gas, but in the short-term there are likely to be fluctuations. For example, as a snapshot in time, last month, GRE utilized its energy wood burning sources at a 100 percent level, indicating that wood was cheaper than gas and coal in December. The resolution could note an expectation of an increase in the price, scarcity, and volatility of natural gas.
  - Council unanimously approved [the resolution which incorporates minor wordsmithing discussed today](#), for presentation to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee tomorrow.
  - Sustainability Committee Chair Pomputius will relay this feedback to her committee, which has approved that the resolution be moved forward, regardless of any minor wording amendments today. Council also encouraged her to share with her members that it would be helpful to identify and solicit faculty whose expertise could contribute to the support of this resolution and project.

## 5. Reporting of Contributing Committees and Administrative Liaisons:

- University IT Committee (S) – Ray Issa
  - The committee last met in November and will meet again at the end of the month.
- Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee (J) -- Gail Hansen
  - 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 set-backs.
  - 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.
- Parking and Transportation Committee (PATC) (J) -- Keith Rambo
  - 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,

particularly those which park on curbs and in the grass. A central location for storage items is also of concern in areas of campus which are going to become car-free zones. It was discussed that these are points of consideration in executing the Master Plan.

- An inquiry was raised regarding the Buckman and University Avenue area parking and Chair Rambo encouraged participation in the next PATC meeting to bring those concerns forward.

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

- The committee has not met since the last council meeting.

- Sustainability Committee (J) -- Ariel Pomputius

- The committee prepared the resolution and the recommendation to VP Reynolds which was discussed in today's council meeting and will be putting forward an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investments resolution for consideration by the Budget Council.

- The UF CAP 2.0 (Climate Action Plan 2.0) Lunch & Learn is taking place Thursday, Jan 27<sup>th</sup> at Noon and all UF staff and faculty are invited to hear more about the ongoing process to update the UF Climate Action Plan during this virtual event. The Office of Sustainability has been hosting presentations for various audiences and has provided updates and background information, as well as an overview of the plan's goals and strategies. Registration is required by contacting the Office of Sustainability at [sustainable.ufl.edu](mailto:sustainable.ufl.edu).

## **6. Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.