

Infrastructure Council Minutes

November 3, 2021

10:00 a.m.

160 Pugh*

*if needed via: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96563752875?pwd=NGczTEdKMk9HdGtGa1ZSbFpCY211dz09>

Present: Keith Rambo, Gail Hansen, Tim Young, Ariel Pomputius, Nancy Clark, Shea Booster, Walter O'Dell, Amanda Phalin, Mark McCallister, Alex Wong, Laurie Bialosky, and Ray Issa.

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 October 6, 2021 Minutes

- The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report

- 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.

- For upcoming meetings, Chair Rambo encourages council to contemplate what infrastructure looks like post-COVID.

- In relation to the new steam plant which is under construction, the Florida League of Women Voters is penning an [Op-ed](#) which will appear in Sunday's *Gainesville Sun*. It will focus on sustainability, UF's commitment to go carbon neutral, and if this plant is anticipated to help or hinder these plans. Janice Garry, League of Women Voters of Alachua County (LWVAC) Natural Resources Committee member, and Lynn Frazier, LWVAC President, will discuss that matter in this piece and the latter will speak at the December 1st council meeting.

- Please encourage colleague (and self) nominations for service on university committees and councils. The [Committee Nomination Form](#) is available at: <http://senate.ufl.edu/committees--councils/> and <http://senate.ufl.edu/>. Members rotating off of Infrastructure Council this Spring are: Breann Garbas and Frank LoMonte.

- Council discussed Spring meeting date planning. It was agreed to keep this time slot for next

semester. The Faculty Senate Secretary will [post](#) and email members a summary listing of the Spring meeting dates.

- A conference of chairs of plant scientists in the SE Region is taking place this Friday. A central topic of discussion will be how COVID-19 changed operations and if it has changed the framework of operations moving forward. Chair Hansen will attend, and at the next council meeting, will share any helpful information from this discussion.

4. Reporting of Contributing Committees and Administrative Liaisons:

- Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee (J) -- Gail Hansen
 - 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. Updates and amendments are being discussed and written.
 - 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.
 - Council discussed routes of action, including relaying this information to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee or to Faculty Senate Chair David C. Bloom to relay to the Board of Trustees. The primary issue remains that there is not a replacement for graduate housing begin demolished in the Campus Master Plan.
 - It was noted that the Faculty Senate Chair is a voting member of the Board of Trustees (BOT). Student representatives expressed appreciation for the support shown by Chair Bloom and inquired if it is possible for UF to supplement graduate housing in Gainesville to maintain affordable housing.
 - In light of recent events covered in the national news media, (pertaining to UF's prohibition of three political scientists on its faculty from offering expert-witness testimony

in a civil lawsuit that challenges the state's new and highly restrictive voting law), the Graduate Student Council is working on a resolution in support of academic freedom.

- Chair Rambo will ask Faculty Senate Chair David C. Bloom to consider placement of the resolution on the December 9th Steering Committee meeting agenda.

- Parking and Transportation Committee (PATC) (J) -- Keith Rambo
 - A sub-committee meeting, as mentioned in the above Chair's Report, was held last month.
- Sustainability Committee (J) -- Arielle Pomputius
 - The committee is reviewing UF's ESG investment policy and will partner with Budget Council to bring information to Faculty Senate. The goal is to provide a statement or fact-findings to this council by December. View the [UFICO ESG Policy Overview](#) and more information @: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/Budget-Council/AgendaMinutes2020-2021>.
 - Recommendations for sustainable alternatives to natural gas plants are being discussed by the committee. There may be transitional planning and a draft resolution will be voted on at the next meeting. The committee will forward its recommendations to VP of Business Affairs, Curtis Reynolds.
 - [Cornell has a 2015-16 online document detailing energy assessments and descriptive options to replace steam on their campus](#), although it ultimately was determined that the option would not be cost effective and efficient for Cornell. Solar farms off campus are instead used. Senator O'Dell shared this information with council and relayed that the documents indicated that Cornell already had a large investment in pipes and related hardware for steam heating and to discard those working parts for new parts was deemed wasteful. The delivered steam provides heat and hot water (and steam for autoclaves, etc.). Each building has a steam to hot water converter. In 2008, Cornell added two gas-powered turbines that now, as of 2015, are the primary source of power for the campus but steam power is still available for reserve and backup. Cornell has more recently built multiple solar farms that now can, in theory, power their entire campus, per [Cornell's solar power web site](#). On sunny days, they power 100% of their daily energy needs from nine on-site and six off-site solar arrays/farms. Off campus, there is 65 MW capacity on 86 acres of land; more capacity is needed at Cornell than at UF as Ithaca is much cloudier and more northern, with less direct sunlight available. Five buildings on Cornell's campus have roof-top solar panel sets that provide 6% - 50% of each building's energy needs.
 - Council noted that the UF energy plant was a June 2020 BOT meeting agenda item (and was

discussed as indicated on pp. 13, 66, 364, and 432 of the [Board Retreat Draft Minutes - June 4-5, 2020](#), as [posted](#).)

- Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee (J) -- Tim Young
 - 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.
- University Information Technology Committee (S) - Raymond Issa
 - The committee met last Monday and is in touch with the Academic Policy Council to address their submitted inquiry pertaining to the best way for IT to assist in establishing consistent university-wide syllabi posting and a possible Canvas syllabus template for faculty. The transition process is still being developed. Joe Souza, Director of Physical Security, has been invited to the next meeting to discuss classroom and building security as well as security technology.
 - Following Chair Issa's report, an inquiry was raised regarding Jamf, a platform which manages Apple devices. An issue recently arose whereby computers were being booted off this server, and employees had not received advanced notification. IT was asked to review how this may be handled in a timelier manner in the future.
- University Libraries Committee – Josepha Cheong / Judith Russell
 - Dean Russell was unable to attend today's meeting but forwarded a [Library East Project](#) document to share. 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.
 - 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.
 - Council also discussed that information pertaining to a possible name change of campus facilities, including, Smathers, should be forthcoming as VP and General Counsel Amy Hass chairs a presidential committee devoted to exploring this issue, including if there are any legal ramifications to changing a facility name which is currently attached to a donor.

5. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.