

# Infrastructure Council Year-End Report 2022-23

Submitted May 18, 2023

## 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

Ariel Pomputius, [apomputius@ufl.edu](mailto:apomputius@ufl.edu) - Sustainability Committee

Scott Washburn, [swash@ufl.edu](mailto:swash@ufl.edu) - Parking and Transportation

Jay Watkins, [watkins@ufl.edu](mailto:watkins@ufl.edu) - Land Use and Facilities

## Administrative Liaison Members

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

Mark McCallister, [markm@ufl.edu](mailto:markm@ufl.edu) - Information Technology

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## Charge

The Infrastructure Council met on 8/29, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5, 1/10, 2/14, 3/21, 4/11 and 5/9. Early on the Council set an agenda of the following issues, though was only able to address a subset of the 6 suggested for the 2022-23 academic year:

- CAP 2
- Central Energy Plant (Renamed - Thermal Production Plant).
- Conservation Management
- Deferred Maintenance
- IT Infrastructure Improvements
- Pedestrian Safety

## Committee Reports

### Sustainability

At the beginning of academic year Matt Williams had a final internal draft of CAP2 completed and this document at the at senior VP level for final review.

Some questions were, what are the financial implications? Matt indicated a \$15M bond option.

How is CO2 emissions to be offset? These are purchased through “We Are Neutral”. Current offset cost is \$10 per metric ton of CO2, equals about \$400k per year for entire campus.

A solar question was: What are the solar energy limits? Matt indicated they were limited within Duke connection of 2 electrical meters to 4MW renewable energy production for UF. Previously UF could not get federal tax incentives for renewables, but this seems to have changed. The roof of O’Connell center planned to add solar panels. All new buildings designed to be “solar ready”. 22% of UF electricity coming currently from solar via Crystal River solar farm (Duke Energy – 75MW facility) with a 6-year contract. The plan is to raise this to 70% after Duke makes additional farms. A new CAP2 lead coordinator John Lawson was introduced.

Sustainability is targeting a presentation of CAP2 to the Faculty Senate in the Fall

Champions for change was celebrated on November 18’t.

November 17’t there was a round-table discussion on various topics including student involvement and UF solar initiatives.

In January Gators Going Green student group presented concept of green graduation cords.

In March Champions for Change took nominations for both wellness and sustainability work.

A special meeting to discuss the CAP2 presentation was held in May. Council members queried Matt Williams on details of the new plan, and this discussion will be posted on the Senate Web Site once the May Infrastructure Council minutes of these are approved.

### Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee Report

There were several discussions of the Powell House and plans, but it appears there is little chance this will move forward soon.

Discussions occurred on a new faculty center with the outcome centering on making such a center financially self-sustaining.

The parking area on Flavel were discussed and changes were approved for recreational facilities.

## Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Report

The committee met and approved:

Advanced Schematic Design for the Architectural Building Renovation, and Renovation of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority House.

Student representative Alex asked: Does the Earl and Christy Powell University House have a historic designation? Ann: The building does not have that designation.

A discussion of the expansion of Broward Dining hall occurred with possible removal of trees around the dining hall. That project was approved.

The Holland Law school plans to remove some offices for group eating spaces, with removal of windows. This was also approved.

A discussion of the new Disability and Resource center and its demolition, which was approved, with concerns about the crossing at University Avenue. This proposal was approved.

## University Libraries Committee

Senior Associate Dean Patrick Reakes was the new representative this academic year.

A discussion of 24/7 library access was discussed. Patrick indicated that a pilot project, 24/7 for one or 2 months to test usage by students would be performed. Perhaps use only certain library floors as 24/7 and get usage before committing to full building access.

Patrick indicated the library would start Monday after spring break to gather data for 24/7, then will go through process to assess need and finances.

During the flood of the library in December 6000 materials were lost. It will take many months until the facility is fully back on-line.

In April the libraries were still in process of replacing air handlers.

## University Information Technology Committee

Early in the year discussions of IT across hospital networks, lab e-notebooks, revamping email system occurred.

During the October meeting the committee discussed electronic lab notebooks, changes in the email/spam system, features in Canvas for pronouncing student names and Google drive limitations. A Survey of Mac use on campus will be performed. The use of unprofessional

gatorlink names is being addressed. The Semi-annual password change may now be reduced because of the use of Duo authentication.

Several departments are interested in electronic lab notebooks. But have problem in chemical labs having to remove gloves. They prefer electronic pen, but contamination is a concern.

In December a discussion of loss of credentials, which may occur when a member moves out of state or neglects to change/update password occurred.

A discussion of ChatGPT and Canvas filtering of it using Canvas plagiarism tools occurred in February.

In April there was a meeting with communications leadership about web site types using templates for the different roles of university people. The templates are for WordPress and Terminal 4. Tier 2 will be used for larger units and tier 3 is for any size unit.

## Parking and Transportation Committee

A focus of discussion was how to reduce the number of vehicles, especially heavy vehicles on campus roads; more clearly defining the parking areas for service vehicles (which may result in reducing such availability for requesting departments.)

During September the new virtual parking permits rollout was a bit chaotic. Backing-in parking is no longer permitted without added front license plate.

Civil and Coastal Engineering is analyzing e-scooters tracking usage and travel paths.

A subcommittee is looking at parking behavior with university and outside vendor service vehicles (parking on bike lanes, etc.)

A concern is electric scooters on sidewalks, and the question arose: “should there be instructions/rules?” The commercial units are geo-fenced so that they are prevented from working on sidewalks and go slower in high-pedestrian areas. It is the personal ones that the students are taking on sidewalks and other areas.

There are additional concerns that long pick-up trucks extending their full length into the driving zone within parking areas because they are no longer permitted to back-in where the ends would be away from the parking areas.

A memorandum to leadership was sent to the Vice President Reynolds to evaluate parking of facilities and maintenance vehicles especially “high-hood vehicles” as they often are parked in walkways, illegally on road.

## Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee

There were 8 projects considered over summer, mostly in programming phase.

This is a continuation of the work to update the conservation area land management plan (CALM:). There will be 12 site visits on or near campus (within walking distance). The group now meets bi-weekly to discuss in detail each site. In this process several sites were found that UF was not aware that were considered conservation areas. There is also a plan that will remove invasive species.

The Broward Hall dining expansion was approved, and it will preserve all existing oak trees.

In January the landscaping outside Harn Museum was discussed and approved. There was also a discussion of the problem with people climbing big red art piece which requires repainting it.

The Reitz Union Liberty Pond seawall needs repair, but this is in a conservation area which will be impacted by new rules.

In March a concern of cars parking on the newly planted arboretum on Ballpark Way during baseball games was discussed. Parkers are ignoring the current signage.

The Ronald McDonald House moving to new building. The DCP laboratory: a new building needs to be shifted slightly, perhaps impacting champion magnolia tree.

For Maguire Village a map of the trees and ecosystem is occurring, while seeking options for different plans after demolition the buildings, perhaps outdoor learning.

There are many global studies indicate that integrating nature (water usage, urban heat planning/environment) will be important in the future. This activity will include sea level rise, soil, and water science. We need an arborist for the campus planning component.

## Other Topics

### Central Energy Plant, now called Thermal Energy Plant.

There are many topics that are not permitted to be discussed. There was not positive history with Duke Energy which is dictating some of our actions. Keith proposed that he and Amanda be permitted to sit on the meetings with Jacobson Engineering when discussing the energy plant. A month later, VP Reynolds replied that the ITN (intention to negotiate) process will be announced. UF is solidified on gas-powered plant.

Assistant Vice President Mark Helms provided an update on the 'thermal production facility': one bidder dropped out. Two left. Both asked for extension to December 9 for proposals, then a one-month review is needed with AVP Helms providing a summary in Jan.

An update from AVP Helms stated that Duke has a solar farm 'nearby'. UF partnered in funding that farm and is buying energy from it so that 75% of our electrical energy is being provided from that source. During the last 2 billing cycles (September and October) UF made money rather than lost from that solar farm investment.

With the December Library flooding during cold snap on the evening of Dec 25, there were 12 instances of frozen pipes/lines across campus. The main unit cooling coil on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor froze and burst. Sensor should have shut the damper off automatically when it leaked and should have let water trickle through before freezing and didn't. It was estimated that this will probably be \$1M cost.

In February AVP Helms stated they are getting closer to finalizing the ITN, and perhaps a month away from conclusion. Only 1 bidder completed final follow-through. In February he cannot give many details. Things are looking positive going forward with ability to include future technologies. Tax credits are available that weren't available previously. Good things are occurring with (Holland Hall) on campus, switching from steam to hot water. The next to switch will be health sciences dental tower for energy savings. After that will be the Cancer and Genetics Research Building, with potential savings of \$1M per year in energy on that building complex.

At the February meeting it was indicated that the Library West facility should be fully open/repared in 30 days, following the winter flooding.

In April AVP Helms said he will have more that he can talk about in the early fall. He said we should expect to have much positive outcomes, financially and long-term reliability. One item that is positive would be the addition of solar panels on parking garages.

## The Powell House

Early in the academic year discussion of the Powell House (i.e., the old University President's House) occupied. The house will not be renovated but rather demolished because too costly to make it ADA compliant. The pool is also too costly to repair. Discussions of what to replace the facility occurred during the early part of the academic year, and the council was informed that the decisions on the renewal of the property were put on hold.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Keith J Rambo,  
Infrastructure Council Chair