

# Infrastructure Council Minutes (Draft)

March 4, 2024

2:00 p.m.

**\*303 Rinker Hall** \*or if needed via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98006133762?pwd=MHFjK1pNSDFYWC80dzB4cVNtQk9XQT09>

Passcode: 290195 Meeting ID: 980 0613 3762 Dial in: +1 305 224 1968

**Present:** Walter O'Dell, Yousong Ding, Laurie Bialosky, Linda Dixon, Cynda Crawford, Ann Baird, Linda Dixon, Matt Williams, Gail Hansen de Chapman, Scott Washburn, Andrew Zimmerman, Carlos Dougnac, Selman Hershfield, Mark McCallister, Rachel Mandell; David Gaddis Ross; Raymond Issa; Mark Helms; Raymond Issa

## 1. Call to Order – Walter O’Dell, Infrastructure Council Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Infrastructure Council Chair Walter O’Dell.

## 2. Approval of February 5, 2024 Minutes

- The minutes were approved.

## 3. New Business

### a. Post-Covid Health Protocols

#### i. [Classroom Air Exchange Data](#) Resource Update – Mark Helms, Asst. VP for UF's Facilities Services Division and Sustainability

- Patricia Sohn: "a number of people in my department are concerned about continuing to be exposed to serious infections by students. Some students appear to think they do not have to exhibit "old" health precautions in the absence of a pandemic (see discussion below)." Unnamed instructor sent to Dan Smith: "a lot of students are coming to class with serious infections. They are coming to class rather than missing class, or coming via Zoom, for fear of losing grade points. Thus far, I have had students with [strep] and other serious infections who come to class first, and they figure out what is wrong later. (I allow Zoom for illness with a doctor's note with a caveat of make-up assignments if used for more than 5 days.)" Dan Smith forwarded the email to Margaret Fields (Assoc dean, CLAS): "this is a concern of many faculty" .. Margaret Fields back to Dan: "I have been exposed to COVID-19 twice in the dean’s office in the last few weeks because someone came to a meeting coughing and tested positive later for COVID-19. It is not just the students who are not mindful. I really do not have a good solution other than the concerned faculty member can wear a mask. I can work with Student Services to ensure students are informed of guidelines concerning classroom attendance when sick. The faculty member can also re-emphasize to the class that students who are sick need to join the

class via Zoom and provide a doctor's note. .. I wonder if a statement on the syllabus would be appropriate."

WO: I then sent an email on Friday to Health Compliance @ the UF Student health Care Center asking if there was a university policy for students to follow regarding sick/absences. I noted that there currently are other major respiratory infections going around besides Covid. I note that the CDC just lessened its Covid isolate restrictions to be "If you have symptoms, stay home until your symptoms are mild and improving and it's been a day since you've had a fever." I asked if requiring a doctor's note to attend a class by zoom is an appropriate regulation. I have not yet received a response but their office had not had much time to review the email.

Laurie suggested that this would be a great opportunity for VP Mark Helms to update everyone in the IC on the Classroom Air Exchange Data:

<https://www.facilitieservices.ufl.edu/information/classroom-air-exchange-data/>

VP Mark Helms: building filter system should be able to address the concern; frequent UV deactivation of building filters for COVID; UF Health Team has consistently surveyed the potential transmission from one room to another room through air exchange or door handles, and has not found these cases. Smathers air filter system is a new type (different coils) and is not specific to COVID.

CC: follow UH Health guidance regarding the absence classroom of students because of sickness; Gail: it takes a long time (weeks) for sick students to receive doctor notes; some council members asked students to send emails to report absence along with reasons; often provided Zoom recording of lectures to absent students; for office hours, tried to find a large classroom to avoid close contacts.

#### **4. Chair's Report / Steering Committee Updates**

- The discussion at the steering committee meeting was dominated by the topics of post-tenure review; restrictions on graduate students and post-docs from the 6 countries of concern; and a statement of academic freedom.

#### **5. Election of 2024-5 Infrastructure Council Chair**

[Eligible](#): Drs. Crawford, Hershfield, Ross & Sohn

- Dr. Selman Hershfield was nominated. Dr. Selman Hershfield was elected.

#### **6. Reporting of Contributing Committees and Administrative Liaisons:**

##### **a. Parking and Transportation Committee (J) – Scott Washburn**

- The focus of February's PATAC meeting was the following: (1) UF Health Ortho OR Building Addition – Design Development; across from Hilton approved; (2) Disability Resource Center – Advanced Schematic Design Phase; approved (3) Update from PD&C consultant on the Fletcher–Buckman One-Way Pairs Study;

approved. There were discussions on if the terminated DEI program might affect Disability Resource Center.

**b. University IT Committee (S) – Ray Issa**

-met last week; each unit reported software used in its unit. CSO will attend the next meeting.

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

-Gail: Willmot Garden would include a horticultural therapy garden, which will remove 4 trees and plant 4 new trees, approved; IFAS, a teaching building (temporary) would be replaced with a permanent building, no tree removal, approved; microbiology sciences added a new teaching lab, removal of 6-9 palm trees, approved.

Linda Dixon Lake Alice Water Management plan (2/16/20204 email): We expect to see a drop in Lake Alice water levels of 18-30 inches by the end of February 2024. This maintenance will improve flooding issues around the lake and reduce stress for trees and other vegetation on the lakeshore that have been impacted by elevated water levels.

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

-No meeting.

**e. Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee (J) – Jay Watkins**

- There was no LUFPC meeting or report.

**f. Sustainability Committee (J) – Andrew Zimmerman**

-Met a couple of weeks ago: try to list courses related to climate change, and how to make them available to students; prepare newsletters to departmental chairs; nomination of UF Champions for Change Awards for anyone going above and beyond for sustainability.

**University Libraries Committee Administrative Liaison – Sr. Associate Dean Patrick Reakes / ULC Chair: Vandana Baweja – traveling in March -**

- Two things of note: we're starting the large air handler replacement project in the historic Smathers building that I've been reporting on and that should run through mid-summer, and we're getting ready to start the demo/removal of the east end of the colonnade just out from the Smathers building. WO: I asked about pathogen filtering/concerns with the new handlers and Pat forwarded the information request to Peter Miller, dir of facilities for the libs.

**7. Old Business**

I asked the Parking and Transportation office if they had data on incidences involving electric scooters on campus, by location of the scooter, and day/night. Latrell Simmons from UFPD graciously provided:

2020: 0 EScooter vs. Pedestrian

0 EScooter vs. Vehicles

2021: 0 EScooter vs. Pedestrian  
0 EScooter vs. Vehicles

2022: 2 EScooter vs. Pedestrian (Daytime)  
EScooters were traveling in the Bike Lane  
4 EScooter vs. Vehicle (All Daytime)  
2- EScooters were traveling in the Bike Lane  
2- EScooters were within the Crosswalk

2023: 0 EScooter vs. Pedestrian  
4 EScooter vs. Vehicle  
1- EScooter was stopping in the Roadway when sideswiped (Daytime)  
1- EScooter traveling in the Bike Lane (Daytime)  
1- EScooter was within the Crosswalk (Daytime)  
1- EScooter was within the Crosswalk (Nighttime)

"We do not account for Off-Campus statistics. The Gainesville Police Department and/or Alachua County Sheriff's Office would have to provide that information."

Council members commented that the majority of accidents have not been reported.  
Question: Are outdoor Escooter chargers available soon? Charging Escooters inside the building has a fire concern. Matt Williams: No update yet.

WO noted that a fatality occurred last week involving an Escooter and a car near the corner of 34th Street and University Ave.

## **8. Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 2: 40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Infrastructure Council member Yousong Ding.