

Report to University Council on March 22, 2007
From the Committee on Facilities

The Facilities Committee met for the second time in the Spring Semester of 2007 on March 7th in the Peabody Room of the Administration Building. Chair Loch Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed the guest presenter, Henry Huckaby, former UGA Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration.

Mr. Huckaby addressed the Committee on the subject of UGA plans for acquiring and using the property currently housing the Navy Supply Corps School, which is scheduled to close in March 2011. The University hopes to acquire the property as a "public benefit re-user," which means that it would come at no cost. This request involves applications to various government entities (including the Department of Education), and both UGA and Athens-Clarke County have submitted proposals. Mr. Huckaby reviewed the condition and usefulness of the structures present on the property. He noted that the land consists of fifty-eight acres, but that in reality the property boils down to about thirty acres of usable land—smaller than often thought. The University's plans are to use the property as a health sciences and medical education facility. Mr. Huckaby responded to questions from the Committee about various aspects of the project, including financial issues. He indicated that the University's administration hopes that the financing of the medical education program will come from "new money" that will not adversely affect other university programs. This is clearly a matter, though, the University administration and the Facilities Committee will need to monitor closely. The final plan for the property is due on June 22, 2007.

The Committee discussed a request from the Student Government Association (SGA) regarding additional safety measures on campus. The SGA seeks street crosswalks with better visibility, as well as improved lighting at night on campus. The administration replied that it would look into these questions.

Other topics included brief discussions about the possibility of establishing a branch Student Learning Center on south campus, and about making UGA facilities more energy efficient. Chair Johnson asked the members to submit suggestions for possible new UGA facilities to improve the already beautiful University campus. The suggestions can be for the near future, in the next several years, or in the more distant future. He will organize these suggestions and share them with the Committee and the administration. He indicated that the Committee's next meeting would focus on parking issues. That meeting is scheduled for 3:30 on April 4, 2007, in the Peabody Room of the Administration Building.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. These minutes were taken by William Davis of the School of Music, and edited and respectfully submitted to the Council by Loch K. Johnson on March 19, 2007.