

University Council Facilities Committee Report

April 10, 2014

The committee met at 2 p.m. April 3, 2014 in Room 103, Connor Hall. There were 13 members present, representing North, South and the Health Sciences campuses.

We had reports from Mr. Ralph Johnson (Facilities management) and Mr. Ron Hamlin (Campus Transit), and then discussed some items of concern from committee members and faculty.

Ralph Johnson

Planning is now underway for the construction of the science learning center, the Baldwin Hall renovation, and the Terry College, which are fully funded by public and private sources.

The University Facilities division has identified a total need of \$350 Million for maintenance and renovation. The expected available budget for next FY under the MRR program is expected to be about \$8.5 million, which was significantly lower than expected as the legislature committee cut the overall MRR funding in the last days of the session. This has required a cutting of projects from the list that were expected to be done, and also means limited or little funds for energy and water efficiency programs. Many buildings on campus are approaching the point in their design life when HVAC and other utility infrastructures are problematic. Classroom renovations to enhance compatibility with modern instructional approaches are a priority. Emergency repairs to building structures and other UGA-owned infrastructures must be anticipated.

On what could prove to be a positive note, the University of Georgia, along with Georgia Tech, is gearing up to participate in a trial program being organized by the State of Georgia that is focusing on whole-building renovations. The specific goal is to reduce annual operating costs associated with buildings or groups of buildings.

Ron Hamlin

Campus transit is fully funded by student fees. They are currently anticipating expanded services to the new Veterinary Medicine Hospital on College Station Road and to new Engineering facilities at Whitehall. The addition of some hybrid busses to the fleet is being evaluated, but to date vehicles meeting size specifications have not yet been identified.

The completion of the Science Learning Center is expected to bring about the need to move an estimated 3000 students per class change on south campus, which may require modifications to existing stops and additions of some bus stops on south campus. Upcoming Clarke County improvements to the Simonton Bridge intersection with South Milledge and the bridge replacement on College Station Road will impact campus transit in an as yet unknown way.

From the Floor...

Traffic on East Campus Road has been a concern of the committee over the past few years. It is anticipated that vehicle counts will increase, due to the new Science Learning Center. Degrees of freedom available for making traffic improvements on East Campus Road are quite limited. Bridge replacements on College Station will further aggravate traffic issues on the East side in the near term.

A request was received from one or two faculty members to consider the addition of charging stations for electric vehicles. In a follow-up call to Don Walter of Parking Services, Parking Services currently has a two-vehicle station in test mode in the north campus deck. It is a level two station which delivers a full charge in 2 hours. The service would be initially free and over time move to a charge for use. At that point, to use this station, one must be a member of the ChargePoint network or pay with a credit card and be charged at a graduated rate depending on time at station. The graduated rate will be in place to motivate moving the vehicle to another location after 2 hours. Testing is anticipated to be complete prior to fall semester. Additional stations in other decks could be installed as the demand warrants.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

E W Tollner

Chair, UCC Facilities Committee