

University Facilities Committee Meeting

Room 103, Connor Hall, 2 p.m.

September 17th, 2014

Attendance: Bill Tollner, Elizabeth Carter, Mary Moore, Bynum Boley, Holly Sellers, Michael Castaneda, John Mativo, Tom Lawrence, Brian Kiepper, Danny Sniff, Shari Miller, Piyush Kumar, Mark Anderson, Kristen Cameron, Ralph Johnson, Marc Galvin, Jimmy Williamson, Ron Hamlin, Faustro Sarmiento, and Russ Mumper. (Count of 20)

Meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. and preceded directly to the agenda items.

1. Election of chair –Bill Tollner was elected unanimously and agreed to serve.
2. Reports from the following individuals:

- a. Mr. Ralph Johnson, UGA Facilities Division
MRR projects

Funding comes from state in form of bond funding. MRR funding received is historically about 20 million dollars. The downturn 2009-2011 cut this down to 10 million. Cosmetic only projects did not survive the budget process last year. Replacing systems in building, backlog of maintenance, HVAC, electrical switchgear, steam line replacement, east campus road surfacing, elevators in science library, elevators in Dawson, roof replacements (main library). A roof replacement program has reduced leak complaints received from hundreds of calls after a storm to around 10 calls, with many now being due to HVAC or other utility issues. With a footprint of 10.5 million square feet of instructional space, UGA spends about 1 million dollars per year in roof replacements. FY16 budget process is just now starting.

Dexter Adams is retiring. He was head of UGA grounds for 35 years. It is hard to list all the projects that Dexter has spearheaded. The campus has been substantially transformed over his 35 years of service. The committee moved unanimously to recognize the career accomplishments of Mr. Dexter Adams with the following commendation (see end of report for action item):

The University Facilities Committee recognizes Mr. Dexter Adams' exemplary and praiseworthy service to the University of Georgia for some 35 years. His efforts toward historic preservation, landscape restoration, and environmental stewardship have been instrumental in executing the physical transformation of the campus that has occurred over his 35 year tenure. His positive, gentlemanly and strictly professional approach to problem solving is greatly appreciated by the university community and the public alike.

- b. Mr. Danny Sniff, Campus Architect

The Historic preservation master plan is being revamped. President Morehead wants to reorganize the effort to ensure that all historically significant structures are recognized and maintained. Structures that are 40 years and older are targeted for consideration. Students will be very involved going forward. A plan pursuant to the Stewardship Law passed in 1999 will be developed.

The Fine Arts building is now largely handicap accessible. A renovation of Georgia Center was begun. On Health Sciences campus, last of the renovation is wrapping up. Science learning center construction is now proceeding. Baldwin hall expansion, including an elevator for handicap access is complete. Baseball stadium is now being renovated and made more handicap accessible. Bolton hall is now open and well received by students. This is thought to have contributed to record meal plan sales this year. Vet school learning center to be finished in spring 15. Iron horse farm is purchased and being readied for use by the agricultural experiment station.

It appears that the glass on the coliseum had nickel sulfide inclusions that made the glass weak. A film was put on the 700 lb. sections. One of the sections subsequently cracked; however the film held the glass in place. Scaffolding has now been removed.

Capital outlay for CCRC and Business School phase II -- The Business School phase 2 is in the capital request, as is the addition of additional lab space to the CCRC on river road, hopefully to be approved by the Regents.

We are still short of making every building handicap accessible. Historic preservation could make this nearly impossible. We are meeting federal mandates. Under the law the University can exercise programmatic flexibility to meet needs of the occupants, including students and faculty. Classes are moved so that students needing access can be accommodated.

c. Chief Jimmy Williamson, UGA Police

The chief took specific questions. Circle around the Ramsey center is still an issue. Traffic volume an issue in this area. Crunch time is between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Traffic on east campus a well-known issue. UGA is working with ACC to improving traffic engineering and signaling. We need to take alternative transportation to relieve the congestion. We need a public information campaign to get this word out. The campus seems to have maximized the size we can be given the topography and railroad.

UGA police stop around 11,000 cars per year. Sixty percent are warnings. Officers focus on dealing with only the most flagrant violations to avoid the perception of 'police state.' Accident numbers dictate where enforcement is pursued. Of all accidents, one or the other drivers or pedestrians is very often distracted. Police will cite those who are distracted. Lumpkin Baxter, Lumpkin Cedar, East Campus (speed). Baldwin and ECD circle. The campus has many distracted drivers and pedestrians.

Campus drop-offs compromise a major problem. We as a university cannot escape this reality. Congestion creates problems but keeps speeds low enough not to kill. Off campus students are the main source of traffic congestion.

Pedestrian bridges continue to be discussed. Separating pedestrians from the street using bridges and/or with hedging and fencing should be more vigorously pursued. Areas of pedestrian refuge as one finds in Europe also being considered. Park and Ride lots on the edge of campus served by campus transit are an option that has not been historically well received. Light rail and express busses on the 316 corridor have been discussed and continue being discussed.

Safe places – there is a campaign trying to encourage people to report cases of assault. Campaign is now being organized to start very soon that will be in sync with national initiatives now making the news.

At one time there were 40 call boxes around campus. These boxes were used to make 7 calls in 8 years. Modern cell phone technology will be used going forward.

d. Ron Hamblin, UGA Transit Services

Athens transit is fare free for UGA staff. Athens park ride is free to UGA staff. Liability is something to be worked through. Health sciences route is well used.

Ten daytime, one overnight route, and four night routes are available. Transit services will add additional (smaller) bus capacity for use when the vet school opens. These will also serve greenhouse areas and labs at the end of south Milledge. A vehicle location App will show people where the busses are at any point and time. A student focus group is being organized to facilitate understanding of transit services and student service needs.

3. Items of concern from the floor – The above reports and subsequent discussion answered all questions. No emails were received since our meeting last spring. Emails are welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Note: Action item is to invite the Council as a whole to endorse the commendation for Mr. Dexter Adams.