

Meeting Minutes

University Council Committee on Facilities

Tuesday February 11, 2025

Meeting Called to Order 3:01 PM (Quorum was reached)

Location: Virtual Meeting Room (Teams)

Attendees:

- Mathew S Mundy (Chair)
- Matthew Bilskie
- Jon Calabria
- Jeffrey Clark
- Michelle Cook
- Gwynne Darden
- Virginia Fleming
- Jeremy Jacob Gibbs
- Kim Landrum
- Emily Lawler
- Casie Legette
- Melissa Redmon
- Ashfaq Sial
- Charles Van Rees
- Kyleigh Weaver
- Todd Kerzie (Interim AVP for FMD, sitting in for Clayton Wilcox)
- Danielle Zeitlin* Student Representative
- William Walker (Graduate Student Association) * Non-voting member

Absent:

- Karl Lehtreck
- Mary Ann McCrackin
- Bynum Boley
- Chas Easley
- Thea Ellenberg
- Bernadette Heckman
- Clayton Wilcox (Substitute Todd Kerzie)

1. Roll Call and Introductions:

Matt Mundy called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM and conducted a roll call. Mr. Matthew Bilskie was thanked for his service on the committee, noting this would likely be his final meeting. Mr. Bilskie indicated his department was close to selecting a replacement representative and would inform the committee chair once a selection had been made.

2. Interim FMD AVP Introduction:

Matt Mundy introduced Mr. Todd Kerzie, who is sitting in for Mr. Clayton Wilcox, the interim AVP for FMD. Mr. Kerzie provided an update on the FMD leadership transition for a new AVP for FMD, explaining that Jeff Benjamin had left, and Mr. Nesbit (VP for Finance Administration) had appointed Mr. Wilcox as interim AVP. Mr. Kerzie is assisting Mr. Wilcox with internal operations. A nationwide search for a permanent AVP is underway, with the goal of filling the position by June or July.

3. Old Business:

- **University Court Sidewalk and Pedestrian Accessibility:** Gwynne Darden reported that the sidewalk on the non-construction side of University Court, near Oglethorpe Residence Hall and the new dining learning and well-being center, has been implemented.
- **Recreational Spaces:** Matt Mundy raised the issue of lost recreational spaces (tennis courts) due to the expansion of the West Deck parking area. He inquired about any studies or plans to replace these lost opportunities for faculty and staff. Dr. Michelle Garfield Cook asked for clarification on what specific recreational spaces were lost. Mr. Mundy clarified from the previous UC Facilities' discussion, pertaining to tennis courts being removed for the West Deck parking expansion. Danielle Zeitlin provided an update from the student perspective, noting student government discussions about recreational facilities, including beach volleyball courts, and the high usage of existing pickleball and tennis courts. Danielle highlighted the need for targeted expansion rather than addressing a deficit of recreational opportunities.

-Continued open discussion-

Mr. Mundy asked about Oconee Forest usage, and Ms. Zeitlin reported increased usage, especially with improved lighting and security.

William Walker inquired about communication with the Ramsey Center regarding space conversion, and Ms. Cook confirmed ongoing conversations and noted the conversion of tennis courts to pickleball courts was driven by student interest. Mr. Mundy asked about any planned recreational facilities to be incorporated into the West Dining facility. Gwynne Darden clarified that the focus is on nutrition, a health center, and mental health resources.

- **Game Day Accessibility (Gillis Bridge):** Mathew S Mundy stated no new data points or concerns have been raised regarding pedestrian access to the bridge during football games.

- **EV Parking:** Mathew S Mundy raised the concern of limited EV parking spots on campus. Todd Kerzie acknowledged the issue and stated that the recent energy master plan touched on the topic. He emphasized the need for collaboration with Transportation and Parking Services and consideration of existing energy infrastructure. Matthew Bilskie inquired about the payment structure for existing EV charging stations and management of EV parking spots. Mr. Mundy stated he would investigate the payment structure.
- **Ramsey Center Pool Usage:** Mathew S Mundy discussed concerns from active and former UGA employees regarding reduced pool hours at the Ramsey Center. Dr. Cook reported on a meeting with the group, where cost constraints and lifeguard shortages were discussed. The group was informed that the full day pool operation was not feasible due to budget limitations. The possibility of offering fee-based classes for community members to access the pool is being explored.

4. New Business:

- **Tucker Hall Renovation:** Mathew S Mundy raised concerns from faculty and staff about indoor air quality in Tucker Hall after renovations, given a history of indoor air concerns and staff related concerns about ambient workspace conditions. Mr. Kerzie addressed the concerns, outlining capital projects that replaced aging units and the chiller, which addressed the conditioning issues believed to be the main cause of indoor air quality issues. He also mentioned an ongoing window replacement project.
- **Sidewalk and Roadway Safety Memo (January 2025) & USDOT Grant:** UGA Chief of Police Jeff Clark provided an update on the \$630,000 USDOT grant focused on vulnerable roadway user safety. Starting Fall 2025, e-scooters will be prohibited inside university buildings, and designated dismounted areas will be implemented. UGA PD is currently educating students and faculty about these changes through traffic stops and will begin issuing citations in Fall 2025. The stops are focused on violations like failure to obey traffic control devices, stop sign violations, failure to maintain lane, dangerous scooter operation on sidewalks, and improper overtaking and passing. William Walker inquired about communication of these initiatives, and Mr. Clark confirmed email communication, planned social media posts, and observed student behavioral changes. Danielle Zeitlin added that students are already aware of the upcoming changes. Mr. Clark detailed the educational component of the traffic stops, where officers explain the rules and provide education without issuing citations. Mathew S Mundy offered the Staff Council's assistance in communicating this information.

-Continued Open Discussion-

Virginia Fleming raised concerns about scooter speed and safety in parking lots, particularly the McFaul lot. Jeffrey L Clark stated he would discuss the issue with the Solicitor General before determining enforcement strategies. Chief Clark emphasized that dangerous behavior would be addressed.

William Walker inquired about the street legality of scooters. Jeffrey L Clark confirmed they are street legal as alternative vehicles but not allowed on sidewalks. Mr. Walker expressed concern about unsafe scooter operation on roadways.

Action Items Discussed

- Sanitary Sewer Issues: Mathew S Mundy raised concerns about recurring sanitary sewer clogs due to improper disposal of items (e.g., wipes). He suggested re-emphasizing proper disposal practices through university communication channels. He noted limited existing guidance and the increased strain on facilities staff due to these issues.
- Summer Facilities Meeting to nominate a new chair and conduct an election

Agenda Items Not brought before the committee

- **Native Plantings**
- **General Campus Maintenance Activities / Aesthetics**
- **Pedestrian Safety (Cedar Street)**

6. Adjournment: Adjourn 3:56

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