

University Council Committee on Facilities

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 10, 2025

Time: 2:00 – 3:05 PM

Location: Virtual (Teams)

Chair: Mathew S. Mundy

Members Present

- Mathew S. Mundy (Chair, Environmental Affairs)
- Alexander Abrams
- Bynum Boley (Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management)
- John Calabria
- Liang Chen (Communication Sciences & Special Education)
- Jeffrey L. Clark (Chief of Police, UGA PD)
- Michelle Garfield Cook (VP for Student Affairs)
- Gwynne M. Darden (AVP, Office of University Architects)
- Denis Dumas (Educational Psychology)
- Virginia (Jen) Fleming (College of Pharmacy)
- Travis C. Glenn (Environmental Health Science & Institute of Bioinformatics)
- Le Guan (School of Computing)
- Alysha Helmrich (College of Engineering)
- Kristina Jaskyte Bahr (School of Social Work & Institute for Nonprofits)
- Karl Ferdinand Lehtreck (Cellular Biology)
- Svetlana Pashchenko (Economics, Terry College of Business)
- Melissa Redmon (School of Law)
- Ashfaq Sial (Entomology, College of Agriculture)
- Charles Barteld Van Rees (Odum School of Ecology)
- Clayton P. Wilcox (Facilities Management Division, Interim AVP)
- Adam David Fouche (Environmental Safety, Risk & Resiliency – Guest Presenter)

Not in Attendance (Aishat Aina, Katie Chambers, Thea Ellenberg, Kim Landrum, Emily Lawler)

Note: John L. Turner attended briefly but clarified he is no longer an official member.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Chair opened the meeting at 2:00 PM.
- 24 members present, quorum established.
- Members introduced themselves, noting departmental roles and areas of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- **May 2025 minutes** approved by acclamation, no objections.
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3. Announcements & Updates

- **New Associate VP for Facilities:**
 - Clayton Wilcox announced appointment of Mike Gebeke (Illinois State University), starting October 6, 2025.
 - Brings 30 years of facilities leadership experience.
 - **Organizational Change – Environmental Safety Division:**
 - Adam Fouche introduced as Interim AVP for Environmental Safety, Risk & Resiliency.
 - Consolidation includes Environmental Safety, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Insurance & Claims Management.
 - Potential consideration for ex officio membership on Facilities Committee.
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4. Old Business

- **Native Plantings Initiative:**
 - Collaboration led by Gwynne Darden and Tianna Lucas.
 - Early stage, multiple stakeholders engaged.
 - Emphasis on sustainability, beautification, and better communication of existing resources.
 - Next meetings scheduled for October and December 2025.
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5. New Business

- **Health Sciences Campus & Medical School Update (Darden):**
 - \$100M facility (50% UGA / 50% state funds).
 - Construction underway; completion expected Dec 2026.
 - 92,000 sq. ft. facility includes classrooms, simulation and skills labs, anatomy center, biomedical research space.
 - Additional 165 parking spaces planned.
 - Design emphasizes sustainability and outdoor study areas.
- **UGA Police Training Annex (Clark):**
 - Serves as training HQ and quartermaster facility.
 - Staffed weekdays, 8–5; not 24/7.

- **Rail Bed / Connectivity Project:**
 - Discussion on potential for rails-to-trails or bus rapid transit.
 - Current administrative obstacles with rail crossing removals.
 - Seen as long-term connectivity and recreation opportunity.
 - **Myers Quad and others w/ Basketball Hoops Removal:**
 - Concern raised by Prof. Lechtreck regarding seasonal removal limiting community use.
 - VP Cook and Chief Clark explained safety and liability concerns tied to past incidents and summer youth camps.
 - Committee to revisit issue in Spring 2026 with data review and possible community input.
 - **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC):**
 - Fouché reported Athens-Clarke County has hired a new Emergency Management Coordinator.
 - Efforts underway to revitalize the LEPC with UGA involvement.
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6. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Ashfaq Sial, seconded, approved.
 - Meeting adjourned at **3:05 PM**.
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Next Steps

- Monitor **medical school construction progress** and campus impacts (traffic, safety, sustainability).
 - Continue **native plantings** working group efforts.
 - Follow up on **basketball hoop access** and community relations.
 - Revisit **rails-to-trails** opportunities in alignment with master planning.
 - Follow up on Pedestrian Safety Initiatives and enforcement data.
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Next Meeting: (date TBD)