

The University Committee on Facilities met at 5pm on 31 August 2021 on zoom.

Scott Nelson chaired with the following committee members in attendance: Pete Bettinger, Kevin Burke, Nancy Dellaria, Virginia Fleming, Michelle Lynn Lofton, Kristi Schaller, Ashfaq Sial, Elizabeth St. Pierre, Kari Turner, Mary Beisswenger, Laura Bierema, Jon Calabria, Erin Dolan, Byron Freeman, and Holly Sellers. Ex-officio members Ralph Johnson, P. Daniel Silk, and Gwynne Darden were also in attendance. The chair determined that a quorum was present.

Nelson apologized for holding the meeting at 5 pm as it prevented our only staff member from attending.

The following members were not in attendance: David Eckles, Laura Kelley, James McClung, Christopher Shumway, Jack Hu, Paul Klute, Assaf Oshri, Michael Robinson, Rahul Shrivastav, Jia-Sheng Wang, and Victor Wilson.

By acclamation the committee elected Scott Nelson to chair for the 2021-2022 academic year. To insure more regularity for committee meetings Nelson suggested introducing a more regular monthly meeting time that will be canceled on months in which there is no new business suggested for the committee.

1. The committee received a resolution (Resolution 03-01) from the staff council calling for covered bus stops and to increase mass transit infrastructure along the Riverbend Road research corridor to encourage the use of public transit and use of the distal parking lots (E-13 and E-14), suggesting that they are likely to fill up post pandemic. A copy of the resolution is available in the staff minutes at <https://ugasc.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Minutes-3-3-21.pdf>

Ms. Darden and Mr. Johnson noted that they have been closely following bus passenger density along the route this summer (around 50-55 passengers per day) and are taking this under advisement. Ms. Darden averred that density might be smaller given that there is no covered bus stop on the route. Mr. Johnson pointed out that other covered bus stops need replacing. Ms. Darden and Mr. Johnson will prepare a collective response to the request that they will send to staff council.

2. The committee discussed signage outside departments and whether this will be updated to reflect the CDC's COVID recommendation that vaccinated people wear masks indoors. Mr. Johnson showed the committee a new poster that strongly encourages everyone to mask. The pdf is not yet available on the website at marketing and communications at https://digitalarch.uga.edu/portals/aihdsc88/Back_to_Campus_Fall_2020 but Nancy Dellaria of the committee pointed out that Archnews had just today (31 August 2021) provided a new link to signage at https://digitalarch.uga.edu/portals/shdhcphu/UGA_VAX which encourages face coverings. Mr. Johnson urged faculty and staff to remove any older signage that suggests that vaccinated students need not mask.

The committee discussed with some alarm the large number of unmasked students in classes and hallways. The committee then discussed and agreed upon the following resolution, which was unanimously passed by the committee. Ex-officio members abstained from voting.

Resolved, the University Council Facilities Committee supports mandatory COVID vaccination and indoor mask use at all times for all UGA faculty, staff, and students. In order to ensure the most effective means of protection against COVID 19 that protects UGA faculty, staff, and students, we urge President Morehead to support such a mandate. In support, we also ask that the University System of Georgia Board of Regents is made aware of this action.

We ask that the University Council consider this at the next general meeting as a resolution to be taken up by the entire council.

3. The committee then discussed the large size of our committee and the potential problem of finding a quorum with a thirty-person committee. Nelson plans to ask the Statutes, Bylaws and Committees Committee (SBC) to consider adjusting down the large count of ex-officio members and adopting the University Council's resolution about membership, viz. "Members who do not attend or send a substitute to two consecutive meetings of the University Council are notified by the Registrar's Office that they will forfeit their membership if they miss or do not send a substitute to a third consecutive meeting. When a member forfeits their membership, the school/college/unit they represent shall elect or appoint a replacement as appropriate."

The committee then considered new business.

Nancy Dellaria raised a question raised about a dangerous crosswalk on Carlton Street with hedges that are too high and put students in danger. She noted that a student was hit on the crosswalk recently. Mr. Johnson said he would see to the trimming of these bushes by staff.

Another member raised a question about a pedestrian beacon on Baldwin Street where the button doesn't start the beacon. Mr. Johnson said he would look into the matter.

The committee adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully,

Scott Nelson