UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL
2010-11 CHAIR: JAMES FOSSETT

MARCH 25, 2011
MEETING MINUTES


GUESTS: Tony Alfieri, Principal, Perkins + Will Architects
John Giarrusso, Associate Vice President for Facilities
Errol Millington, Director, Office of Campus Planning
Frank Fazio, Planner, Office of Campus Planning
Susan Stewart, State University Construction Fund
Karen Chico Hurst, University Registrar

MINUTES: Minutes of January 18, 2011 approved with correction

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT
No report was given

CHAIR’S REPORT

NEW BUSINESS

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

Tony Alfieri presented an overview of the Facilities Master Plan, which is commissioned and funded by the State University Construction Fund, which will cover 2013-2018 and 2018 to 2023. Critical Maintenance and Special Initiatives (new construction) are funded separately. Renovation of existing facilities is a priority in this plan. This is especially important, given that 80% of our campus space is 40-45 years old. 1.8m net square feet are to be renovated uptown and downtown, at a cost of $470m or more. While we may have enough space, it is obsolete pedagogically and in desperate need of renovation. Perkins + Will has held meetings with key stakeholders, roundtables and workshops with the campus community. Open Fora will be held as well. Info is also available on the web portal http://www.albany.edu/facilities/fmp/.

Susan Stewart answered Chair Fossett’s question about how the FMP will hit the UAlbany budget – she does not anticipate difficulty in obtaining critical maintenance funding, and clarified that this is not paid for with campus operating funds. Strategic Initiative funding is a function of state economics, and is uncertain at this time, and may not materialize until the second half of the ten year period. Mr. Giarrusso explained that as far as the deferred maintenance pie during this current cycle, we have $33 million based on a SUBOA formula. Going forward, the idea is to show how well we did with the current plan, and demonstrate how much more we can do with a larger share of the deferred maintenance funding. Funding for new construction will be programmatically driven, and there will be no operating funding provided for new structures. Special Initiatives will be funded from bond money and member items, and will not show up on the UAlbany budget. Mr. Ferlo raised the point that renovation projects save us money in operating funds, whereas new construction costs us a lot on that end. Mr. Giarrusso
rebuffed the idea that renovations save us operating money, explaining that nicer, newer spaces require double effort to keep looking as new/clean and because the HVAC and electrical systems require more staff attention.

Dr. Wagner asked about the CNSE campus and their planned expansion in the near term. This is not part of the Master Plan, and the reconfiguration of Fuller Road will make little or no impact on the main campus. Dean Bangert-Drowns asked about parking. While the master plan is primarily tasked with reviewing facilities, they are looking at transportation issues. Perkins + Will will take recommendations and make a high level recommendation (quantity & distribution), but will not model campus use. Ms. Stewart interjected that part of the FMP process is to develop a list of projects, which may include a future parking study. Mr. Williams inquired about parking garage funding; it is not typically funded. A garage would have to be built in the same manner as a dorm; it would have to pay for itself.

UPPC BAG

Dean Bangert-Drowns has drafted a resolution from UPPC regarding its position on the budget situation. The idea is to circulate to SEC and the Senate as a whole – we want to inform the larger university community of the dire straits we are in. Dr. Johnson and Mr. Bessette wondered if we might further highlight that the state is taking away support and takes tuition on top of it. Mr. Beditz clarified that it is not a double dip, but that the bottom line decreases nonetheless. Mr. Bessette identified a disconnect between raising tuition and not getting any benefit from it, as the increase ends up going into the general fund. Mr. Ferlo moved to make the minor changes as discussed to the draft resolution and proceed with distribution. Dean Bangert-Drowns will make the final edits and send to Dr. Fossett for transmission to the Senate secretary for distribution to SEC on Monday. Dr. Fossett sought input from the council on how to present the document. The BAG worst case scenario looks like what is going to happen. Tuition increases will not make it into the budget. The potential for the governor to pull all funding out of the SUNY hospital could have a further impact. If something is not put back in, that will likely mean that there will be some kind of an assessment on the rest of SUNY. The picture may be clearer by Monday.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2012-13

University Registrar Karen Chico Hurst presented the council with the proposed 2012-13 academic calendar for their consideration, as well as a revised Spring 2012 academic calendar with spring break moved to accommodate President Philip’s request to do so in light of the events related to the ‘Kegs & Eggs’ riot.

Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 were reviewed as well. The council had concerns regarding break schedules during Spring 2013, given that spring break immediately precedes both Passover and Easter, there is a strong potential that students will not return to campus when class is back in session.

Motion to approve the Spring 2012 calendar as amended was approved unanimously. Motion to approve the Fall 2012 calendar was approved unanimously. Motion to approve the Spring 2013 was approved with reservations and one abstention – this is acceptable as a one-time solution with a
request that the administration seek to allow for Passover/Easter flexibility in future calendars. The council also noted a desire to review the calendar policy at a later date.

Ms. Chico Hurst will plan to return to UPPC at a later date to establish a multi-year calendar setting policy instead of going year to year as is being done now.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Stern