

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday, 20 October 2009, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Raja Avavamuthan, David Dakin, Marilyn Kritzman, Harold Glasser, Kevin High, Dean Honsberger, John Jellies, David Lemberg, Zachary Spencer, Lowell Rinker, Paul Solomon, Gay Walker.

Guests: John Dunn, WMU President; Bassam Harik, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel; Ken Miller, Chair, WMU Board of Trustees; Robert Miller, Associate Vice President for Community Outreach.

Also present: Casey Barrons, Western Student Association.

Chair's Comments – Paul Solomon

Solomon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion by Jellies to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Dakin. Motion carried.

Approval of the 22 September 2009 Minutes

Motion by Dakin to approve the minutes of the 22 September meeting as presented, seconded by Lemberg. Motion carried.

Informational/Discussion Items

Downtown Event Center/Arcadia Commons West – Ken Miller and John Dunn

Mr. Miller discussed the proposed event center and business center. The event center will serve as the core of a business, retail and residential center.

The proposed event center would be used primarily for WMU men's basketball, WMU hockey and K-Wings hockey providing 25% of annual use. The event center would be funded by a 1% tax on restaurants, hotels, and rental cars. The business, retail and residential development around the event center would be from private funding.

The event center site is jointly owned by Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated (DKI) and was donated in 2000 for future development. If no development occurs by 2014 the ownership of the property reverts to DKI.

Several reasons for moving WMU basketball and hockey to the new event center included overuse of Read Fieldhouse and Lawson Arena and that both venues will require extensive capital to upgrade in the future. Another concern was the loss of the downtown property valued at \$4.4 million.

President Dunn and Mr. Miller both agreed that a strong downtown Kalamazoo will strengthen WMU and the focus should be on long term benefits of this project.

Mr. Miller stated that the 1% tax would have a minimal impact on residents. The average Kalamazoo resident spends \$1500 annually for restaurant food and beverage. This would equate to \$15 dollars annually for the average person and \$30 - \$45 dollars annually per family.

Mr. Miller displayed a map with the event center surrounded by the downtown neighborhoods. He indicated the vision for the project is for the event center/Arcadia Commons West to become the hub of the community, bringing adjacent neighborhoods together. The project will benefit not only downtown, but the surrounding neighborhoods as well.

President Dunn stated he has concerns regarding how students would get to/from downtown safely. He discussed several thoughts regarding possible changes that would improve transportation between campus and downtown.

Mr. Miller anticipates the 1% tax (Public Act 180) will be presented to voters in May 2010. He indicated that more information will be available at <http://www.arcadiacommonswest.com/>.

Robert Miller suggested the CPFC get regular updates on the project.

Due to time constraints, the other informational/discussion item on the agenda, Exceptional Challenges Facing Western Michigan University, to be addressed by President John Dunn, was deferred to a later date.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Rinker, seconded by Dakin. Motion carried.
The meeting ended at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin High