

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday, 16 February 2016 at 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Raja Aravamuthan, Todd Barkman, Cheryl Bauman-Bruey, David Dakin, Kieran Fogarty, Richard Gershon, Joshua Greenman, Kathleen Langan, Glen (Pat) Langworthy, Gary Mathews, Jan Van Der Kley and Gay Walker

Guests: Pete Strazdas, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management; Patti Van Walbeck, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance, and Linda Poquette, Business and Finance

Procedural Items

Welcome

Kieran Fogarty, chair, welcomed Pete Strazdas, associate vice president for Facilities Management, and council members to the meeting.

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Dakin to accept the agenda as presented, supported by Walker. Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of 19 January 2016

A motion was made by Gershon to approve the minutes of 19 January 2016, supported by Walker. Motion passed.

Chair's Comments – Kieran Fogarty

Fogarty confirmed an agenda item for the March 15 meeting will be a report presented from the Subcommittee on Assessing the Incentive-Based Budget Models at WMU. If there are additional topics of interest to be discussed at future meetings, Fogarty would like a call or an email so arrangements may be made to include as an agenda item.

Information/Discussion Items

Todd Barkman – Update, CPFC Subcommittee to Assess Incentive-Based Budget Models at WMU

A full report is planned for the March 15 meeting. A written report will be provided before the March meeting. The subcommittee has been meeting two times a month and two more meetings are planned. After the report to the council, the recommendations will go to the Faculty Senate Executive Board for its approval and then to the Faculty Senate.

Todd Barkman – Colony Farm Orchard Development

Barkman informed the council on the expansion at the current Business Technology and Research Park that is contingent with the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. At public meetings, the students, Asylum Lake Conservation and this council are represented. This property was not designated for development when first received by WMU. Conflicts were resolved and a collaborative partnership developed with Oshtemo Township.

Barkman presented a recommended concept to council members. Apple trees, grape vines and Consumers Energy are on the property. Environmental issues have been addressed for BTR II expansion. Preservationists would like to maintain the water shed without run-off of the water and to have some type of vegetation wall so buildings do not have to be seen, and to save the threatened species on the property. There is still the question of how the entryway would interface with the boulevard, where nine sites would be, and the location of the emergency road. There should be a walkway along with bike and walking trails available extending down to the waterway. Also, a historic well is on the site. Business interests have a high priority for people driving by and being able to see the sites.

Members will go back to their prospective groups for feedback regarding the proposed concept. The plan will be presented to the next public session on March 2 at 6:30 p.m., Oshtemo Township Hall. At the advisory committee there was discussion without a lot of dissent.

Van Der Kley went to the first public meeting and attendees were happy with the process. The lots and buildings on the lots have to meet the specifications already set forth. Robert Miller, vice president for Community Outreach, is the one to report on lot sales. Van Der Kley noted that this is not a profit driven project. Research universities have research and technology parks and the primary purpose is partnerships and collaboration opportunities for students that include internships, employment after graduation and businesses that become partners with WMU. Oshtemo Township fronts the money for the infrastructure and receives a return from tax assessments and employment. The intent is to create more jobs and opportunities for students with a high level of expertise.

Barkman will bring the site plan to the next meeting with a recommendation that this plan is the one to be implemented. Dakin added that property lines may change during the planning stage. An important part is the entrance and roadway. There is only one parcel left owned by the WMU Foundation, which is a major source of inflow of water. The signage also needs to be improved.

Pete Strazdas – Responsibility Facility Issues

Public Safety and Facilities Management (FM) work together, however, FM is not the police. Utility and building issues are under FM. During the last couple of weeks, at Stinson Hall, the odor of gas was smelled. The gas was shut off so students could return to the dorm. A complete review was done and it was confirmed that there was a natural gas leak; it was abated and repaired. The following Monday another odor was reported with several calls reporting the odor.

Everything was checked but there was no gas leak. After a lengthy review, it was determined that it was not a dangerous situation and was a sewage odor. Van Der Kley added that with phone calls from several buildings, Division of Student Affairs and University Relations were also involved. Eventually, the smell dissipated.

When possible dangerous situations occur, students are offered other places to go that are recommended by DOSA. Cheryl Roland, executive director of University Relations, monitors social media. Strazdas advised council members that FM always errs on the side of safety for students, faculty and staff. The alert system does not apply to a small subset of populations and everyone may go to WMUs website for the latest updates.

We have GPS coordinates on campus. A plan is in place to repair and update mechanicals. There is a fire alarm and voice communication system on campus that is state-of-the-art and is tested on a regular basis.

Van Der Kley – Updates

- Wesley Foundation should be empty by February 28, providing additional green space.
- The Higher Learning Commission site visit for WMed turned out well and WMed may be accredited earlier than expected. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education is at the beginning of next week and with a good report, WMed will move up to the next level.
- An update for the funding from Governor Rick Snyder, a proposed increase of 4.3% in state university funding which would restore aggregate university funding to fiscal year 2011 levels. There is also a change in the proposed method of distribution to the universities to one-half of the increase be distributed across-the-board and one-half based on performance metrics, related to programs, graduation rates and on Carnegie classifications. Van Der Kley went over funding levels and noted that state appropriations are not the number of students. We have been down in funding levels for five years and the governor is recommending tuition increase and tuition restraint language of 4.8 percent this year, which caps our tuition increase as long as we comply. The governor proposes and then the House and Senate debate. The end result could come out differently than what was originally proposed.
- Enrollment is projected to decline in the fall by 1.3 percent. Enrollment for other schools will not be known until the reports are submitted in October.

Dakin – Project Updates

- Goldsworth Valley – Miller Davis is the contractor and gearing up to start in March/April.
- Stadium Drive – Budget issues have been resolved and project is moving forward.
- Summer of 2018 – concept in design college needs to raise funds.
- Grand Rapids and Punta Gorda – Extended University Programs is currently consulting with a firm on both projects.

- Wesley Foundation – Building will be razed due to age and an old infrastructure. Area will provide additional green space.
- McCracken - Asbestos abatement project to be completed in order to raze the building.
- Solar Garden – Consumers Energy project is taking place in the BTR park.
- Surplus sales may relocate and the old building will be razed.

In response to a question on vehicle movement around ring road, Dakin responded that pedestrians have the advantage. The landscape and design is meant for students to cross at the bridge with the goal of limiting the number of crossings and to make them very visible.

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. by Bauman-Bruey, supported by Langworthy. Motion passed.

Linda Poquette
Recording Secretary