

Friday, September 7, 2018
2 – 2:55 PM
Chicago Room, University Union

PRESENT: Fetene Gebrewold (Public Health), Jongho Lee (Political Science/Secretary), Katharine Pawelko (RPTA), Troy Rhoads (Facilities Management/ex-officio), Erin Taylor (Political Science/Chair)

ABSENT: Duke Oursler (Art), Tom Sadler (Economics), Roger Viadero (Environmental Studies/ex-officio)

Introductions

Taylor welcomed the members of the committee and asked each member to introduce him/herself.

Update on Campus Facilities

Rhoads from Facilities Management informed the committee that Ken Griffin had left the university as of the 6th of September and as such, will no longer serve as Director of Facilities Management. He also reported that the university had been notified to receive about 9.5 million dollars from the state for capital renewal projects and highlighted that work on the Chown Golf Learning Center and the demolition of Higgins Hall had recently been completed.

According to Rhoads, the bulk of the 9.5 million dollars would probably be spent on three important projects, among others. First, in great part to address the recent failure of the Malpass library's chillers, chilled water loops can possibly be built for the library and a few other campus buildings for about 4.5 million dollars. Second, about 3 million dollars would be needed to replace or fix the leaking roofs of several buildings. Finally, the piping systems for at least three buildings need to be upgraded.

Pawelko asked whether and how much, if any, the state will provide funding for the university's maintenance and construction projects. She noted that a precipitous decrease in state support for the university has forced the university to become much more tuition dependent. This trend prompted her to wonder whether there would be enough financial resources to upkeep the campus. She pointed out that delayed maintenance would most likely lead to more costly repairs and some campus buildings whose maintenance issues are

not being adequately addressed due to lack of funding for repairs may even be condemned in the (near) future.

Rhoads responded by acknowledging that there is a backlog of maintenance issues across the campus. He emphasized, however, that the university's Facilities Management continues to do what it can with dwindled resources to prioritize and address significant maintenance issues as they arise and to minimize the (potential) adversarial effects of delayed maintenance on student recruitment and retention.

Gebrewold asked about the possible effects of the administration's call for reorganizing academic programs on the usage of campus facilities. Rhoads mentioned that this issue will probably be discussed by a university-wide task force, currently known as the Space Task Force. Taylor stated that she had been asked to sit on the said task force, representing the CCPU.

Lee asked whether there would be any particular issues or tasks Facilities Management might want the committee and university faculty to help with. Rhoads suggested that faculty, students, and staff are more than welcome to volunteer for "We Care"—a campus beautification project. In fact, numerous student groups along with faculty and staff have participated in that service project over the years.

Rhoads further discussed other completed or on-going projects by Facilities Management. The projects includes not only the completion of a crime lab for the School of Law Enforcement & Justice Administration, but also repairs done to the roof of the Union Motel, the chiller for Thompson Hall, and several parking lots, among others.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 5, at 2 PM in the Chicago Room of the University Union.