The Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services met on Friday, January 16, 2004, at 8:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair John Schaufelberger presided.

PRESENT: Professors Schaufelberger (Chair), Korshin, Pace, Rorabaugh and Treser; Ex officio members Geppert, McCray and Pike. Guests Peter Dewey, Assistant Director, Transportation Services; Pamela Stewart, Director, Planning and Facilities Infrastructure, Computing and Communications.

ABSENT: Professors Andersen, Balick, Devasia, Heerwagen, Souders and Souter; Ex officio members Chamberlin, Chapman, Fales, Stygall and Waddell.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of December 3, 2003 were approved as written.

Parking Passes for Privately-Owned Vehicles – Peter Dewey, Assistant Director, Transportation Services

FCUFS PSO representative Brian Geppert – whose question at the last FCUFS meeting served as the impetus for today’s visit from Peter Dewey – repeated his original question: “As a University of Washington employee or faculty member, if you want to come to campus using your own vehicle, for a specifically business-oriented reason, such as dropping something off at your office or lab, or picking something up at your office or lab, you have to pay to do so. Yet commercial vehicles entering campus to do the same thing do not pay. Why is this so? You would think that a University of Washington employee or faculty member would be able to make a five-minute stop on campus without having to pay.”

Peter Dewey, Assistant Director, Transportation Services, said, “Everyone who parks on campus can unload something, or pick something up. Their department or unit can get parking coupons and give them out to faculty or staff for precisely this purpose. Also, 90% of UW employees who drive to work park on campus. Almost all of them have individual parking permits that allow use of load zones at no additional charge. The actual number of people who would want to deliver something on campus, and then park off-campus, is very small. And we don’t want to encourage that practice.”

Schaufelberger reiterated Dewey’s emphasis: “If a faculty or staff member is doing work, or briefly coming onto campus in his or her vehicle, his or her unit can get commuter tickets and make them available to an employee or faculty member for the day, or for however long is necessary. You may only pay for the time you actually park, with a validation coupon.” Pace asked, “Why can’t I just come and go and not have to pay, as is the case with a commercial vehicle?” Dewey said, “In 1997 we eliminated the 15-minute free parking privilege on campus. The University does continue to subsidize the commercial deliveries and pick-ups, and it may be more fair for these to be charged as well. Drive-thru permits were also dropped in 1997. People thought they could park with them; that was not the intention.”

Rorabaugh said, “If it had no consequence, why get rid of it?” Geppert said, “Usually, people who need to do this, do so on an ad hoc basis: some emergency situation, or such.” Dewey responded, “The parking validation coupons work quite well: You only pay for the elapsed time you’re here on campus, and you pay nothing; the unit pays.” Geppert said, “There’s a difference of philosophy. A staff or faculty member, or a student, who needs to make a brief drop-off or pick-up should be able to do so free.” Treser observed: “It’s an inequity. If commercial vehicles can come [to campus] free, so should employee vehicles be able to come to campus for a brief time.”

Geppert said, “Our lab works a lot with external companies. So we’re for their being able to park.” Schaufelberger said, “Commercial vehicles are usually recognizable; if we open it up, there will be a free parking space for anyone.” McCray said, “You need rules and regulations to meet the needs of a complex
community. And almost all universities have a system wherein people are required to pay for short-term parking. When we used to issue the 15-minute drive-thru permits, the system was abused all the time. We also have to satisfy the City of Seattle, the Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate, and many other bodies, regarding the volume of traffic. Charging a fee for parking assists us to regulate the volume of traffic.”

Geppert asked, “Whom do I contact?” McCray said, “Scott Rutherford is chair of the University Transportation Committee.” Dewey said, “If this is going to happen, it would have to happen now. A fee proposal is expected to be presented to the Board of Regents in May 2004. That committee is advisory to Executive Vice President Weldon Ihrig.” Schaufelberger said, “The fee structure is part of the administrative code.”

Update on Computing and Communications Facilities – Pamela Stewart, Director, Computing and Communications

Pamela Stewart, Director, Computing and Communications, distributed copies of the “Computing and Communications Mission Statement.”

“When I talked to John Schaufelberger, I asked what I should talk about. On the basis of that discussion, I have decided to first present an overview of Computing and Communications, then discuss C&C facilities. I am one of eight directors at C&C. At the present time, we’re re-doing our organizational chart.”

The following is a brief summary of the major divisions of Computing and Communications, from the “Roles and Responsibilities” section of the handout:

“Computing Services and Operations is responsible for the operations, systems programming, and documentation of the general purpose academic and administrative host / server computers, as well as computing services for UW Medicine. This unit also provides campus security policy, security operations, user-centered design technologies, Web content, streaming media services, and Catalyst infrastructure.”

“Information Systems (IS) is responsible for applications software including University-wide administrative applications and Web-based information systems; the DO-IT project and the Adaptive Technology Lab; as well as general campus information systems. This unit also has administrative responsibility for C&C Client Services which includes consulting, training, and support for C&C systems and applications.”

“Networks and Communications Technologies includes Communications Technologies, Networks and Distributed Computing, and Multimedia Technologies and Content.”

Other, smaller units include Planning and Facilities Infrastructure, Technology Outreach and Partnerships, and Business and Finance.

Stewart said that, in C&C Administration, in addition to the eight directors, there are 475 staff, some of whom are self-sustaining.

Stewart next addressed “what we do [in C&C] and what goes on throughout the campus and elsewhere in the University involving C&C.” There are “staggering numbers,” she pointed out. C&C serves 45,000 students, 31,000 faculty and staff, 19,000 clinicians, 29,000 alumni, tens of thousands of distant students, and a growing number of patients; over $600 million / year in C&G load; a million other people each month using the UW Web; plus all of “K20” for networking and other strategic UW partners like “Cancer Care Alliance.” There are 30,000,000 e-mails / month; 7 million lines of administrative code; 10,000 administrative programs; and, among those needing to house their servers: faculty, staff, students, department Web users, Catalyst, and MyUW; plus enterprise, clinical and managed servers. And these are just a few of the “staggering numbers” C&C must contend with and accommodate every day.

“A challenge this past year has been security,” said Stewart. “40-50% of e-mail that comes to campus is SPAM.” She noted that one can go through MyUW to get one’s “junk e-mail” sent to a “junk pool,” and be
able to check the “junk pool” later to see if anything was sent there that should not have been. “This is a real challenge for us,” she emphasized.

Another development in communication, said Stewart, is that there are now three technology advisory committees, called ATAC (an academic advisory committee), ITAC (an administrative advisory committee), and UTAC (a University advisory committee). There are quarterly meetings of the advisory committees. There is also a group of deans of smaller colleges that meets and discusses ways of sharing information resources. Computing directors of individual units also meet. “And we’re trying to expand MyUW.”

On the facilities side, Stewart said, “With regard to the whole campus, people have technology needs that must be addressed, but a lot of our facilities present serious challenges for adapting to those needs. We are working on upgrading the older buildings. With new buildings or renovations, there is an infrastructure budget to assist in meeting the technology needs of these buildings. With smaller projects, it is harder to get the necessary funding. We have received $5 million annually in recent years, while asking for $20 million. The $5 million, though much appreciated, does not go very far in meeting these technology needs. But we’re plugging away at all these projects. We can use all the funding support we are able to get.”

Stewart turned to the map available in the handout showing the Computing and Communications space locations on- and off-campus. The map shows C&C space locations in five buildings on campus (Kane Hall, Gerberding Hall, Mary Gates Hall, Academic Computer Center and Magnuson Health Sciences Center T Wing) and five leased buildings off-campus. “70% of C&C staff is in leased space,” she observed. “We’ve run out of space in the Bowman building. Bowman houses a huge warehouse, as well as Communications Technology staff who are responsible for the University’s massive phone system and wiring. We would like to add space on the second story of the building.” At the 2923 NE Blakely building, C&C has its computer maintenance center. At 4545 15th Avenue NE, 4516 University Way NE, and 4518 University NE, C&C has three buildings, all leased.

“There is no space on campus for us [beyond what C&C already has], and the rental space is never in one place,” Stewart said. On the central campus Video & TV Technologies has 12,000 sq. ft. in Kane Hall, where the University’s television and video technology center is located. “That location makes sense,” she stressed. She said her own and other C&C administrative offices are located in Gerberding Hall. The C&C Accounts office is located in Mary Gates Hall.

Stewart reiterated the pressing fact that the C&C data center “is also running out of space. We could conceivably get through 2005 with our present space. We’re working with Colleen Pike [Acting Director of the Capital and Space Planning Office], and looking for options. We have 16,000 sq. ft. for data, but the Academic Computer Center is not an extension of the 4545 15th Avenue NE building. It’s a redundancy. 4545 is our primary data center, and it’s almost full. ACC has no back-up power. What are our options? They’re few. We could rent data center space. South Lake Union is another option. We’re considering a collaboration there with the Medical School, but that is also leased space. There are other places in the city available, because of the dot com bust. But we need a lot of sq. ft. We really need a plan for the next 20 years for data center space in C&C.”

“We’re negotiating an agreement with the School of Nursing to house server racks for them. The Law School has a challenge for server space. We have requests from four Health Science units for server racks. And we’re coming up against deadlines for data center needs. We can’t expand in the 4545 building.”

Stewart said a critical question is: “What do we do about all the departments whose servers we haven’t had to house before?” McCray said, “There are a lot of energy codes with the City of Seattle that must be abided by, as well.” Pike said, “Our office is working with C&C on a comprehensive space study. We have identified the needs. The challenge is to get the resources. There are also many other needs.” Stewart said, “Funding is dicey with smaller projects. With the larger projects – our top priorities – it depends on the building. Funding can be a crapshoot. A department might have to scurry for funding.”
Schaufelberger said, “Faculty are more and more dependent on technology.” Pike stressed that “there needs to be coordination in funding these projects.” Stewart added: “There’s no cookie-cutter approach with the little projects.” Pike said, “We compare requests, look at the infrastructure [of the building in question], and try to coordinate the renovation projects.” She added, “We’ll also continue to work with developments in the University District.”

Treser said, “I just want to say that Computing and Communications is doing a great job!” Several other council members offered further accolades for the work C&C is doing, comparing it favorably with the work being done in this field at the best universities in the country.

Next meeting

The next FCUFS meeting is set for Friday, February 20, 2004, at 8:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder