UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services met on Wednesday, October 23, 2000, at 2:30 p.m. in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair John Schaufelberger presided.

PRESENT: Professors Schaufelberger (Chair), Aylward, Bramhall, Gates and Souders; ex officio members Coulter, Fales, Ludwig, McCray and Paula Walker (for Richard Jost),

Guests Sandra Lier, Assistant Vice President, Business Services; Vicky Peltzer, Campus Police Chief, University Police; Mary B. Coney, Chair, Faculty Senate

ABSENT: Professors Andersen, Battaglia, Gill, Kasprisin and Zuberbuhler; ex officio members Cox, King, Sjavik, Martynowych and Pike.

Welcome and introductions - FCUFS Chair John Schaufelberger

Returning Chair John Schaufelberger welcomed new and continuing members to the 2000-2001 Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services.

Review of the major issues of the 1999-2000 FCUFS academic year – John Schaufelberger

Schaufelberger briefly reviewed the major emphases of the 1999-2000 FCUFS academic year. Roberta Hopkins, Director, Classroom Support Services, provided an update on the classroom improvement plan. The $9 million Classroom Improvement Project will begin work in Winter Quarter 2001. (Roberta will update the council on the project at a forthcoming meeting.) Theresa Doherty, Master Plan Coordinator, and Lee Copeland, Architectural Advisor to the University, made presentations to the council in which they discussed the goals and vision of the plan and some assumptions and alternatives. (Theresa and Lee, or others working on the Master Plan, will update the council on the Master Plan’s EIS – Environmental Impact Statement – and other developments of the plan at a council meeting this year. Also, the project manager of the new Law School construction will be asked to brief the council on that upcoming project.) Marilyn Cox, Director, Capital and Space Planning Office, discussed the planning process for new academic buildings. (Marilyn, an ex officio member of the council, will give an update on the planning process.) Peter Dewey, Transportation Systems Manager, discussed the update Transportation Management Plan that is being developed as a part of the Campus Master Planning effort. Betty Bengtson, Director of University Libraries, and Paula Walker, Assistant Director of the Libraries, discussed the renovation of Suzzallo Library. (Paula gave a brief update today on the progress of the renovation.) Dean Heerwagen, Associate Professor of Architecture, and a voting member of FCUFS through the 1999-2000 academic year, made a presentation on the results of his study of classroom acoustics. (The study resulted from numerous complaints from faculty members who said they were experiencing difficulty understanding students’ speech during class.) And Fred King, Assistant Vice President for Capital Projects, presented the reorganization plan for his office. (The project managers are being organized into three project delivery groups.)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 22, 2000 were approved as written.

Suzzallo Renovation Project: an update – Paul Walker

Walker said the Suzzallo Library Renovation Project is now three months under way, with demolition work scheduled to continue through October and November. The project is scheduled to last approximately 24 months, with completion planned for summer of 2002.
Schaufelberger said the project “seems very well organized,” and added that he has heard no complaints about any inconvenience to students or faculty. He said the noise level has not been disruptive during the demolition phase of the project, which is extraordinary considering the central location of the library.

Walker said most of the noisiest work is being done on the second shift, when by far the greatest proportion of faculty and staff have left the campus for the day. She said no significant complaints have been lodged by students or faculty as the first phase of the project has gone ahead.

Walker distributed a newsletter devoted to the project: the “Suzzallo Library Renovation News.” The purpose of the newsletter is to update students, faculty and staff “on the construction progress” of the project. The Suzzallo Renovation Web page – www.lib.washington.edu/about/suzzren/ - serves a similar purpose.

Use of University Facilities Committee – FCUFS volunteer: Sarah Gates

Schaufelberger said FCUFS voting member Sarah Gates has volunteered to serve on this important committee. The concerns of the committee should make it of particular interest to an FCUFS member.

Voting rights for the Libraries and Emeritus representatives on FCUFS

All voting members of the council voted to accord the Libraries and Emeritus representatives of FCUFS voting rights for the 2000-2001 academic year. These representatives have been excellent contributors to council discussions, and have regularly attended council meetings.

Campus Emergency Preparedness – Sandra Lier: Assistant Vice President for Business Services

Sandra Lier, Assistant Vice President for Business Services, introduced herself to the council and spoke briefly of her experience prior to joining the University of Washington this year. She long held a position at the University of California at Irvine with responsibilities similar to those in her new position at UW.

As Assistant Vice President for Business Services, Lier reports to Executive Vice President Weldon Ihrig. Reporting to Lier are Publications and Mailing Services, Purchasing and University Stores, Risk Management, University Police, and the Real Estate Office. Lier said her chief objectives are to see that these departments are appropriately funded for the work they need to perform; that they perform that work effectively and efficiently; that new initiatives and innovations are sought to enhance the work; and that her office serve as an effective liaison for all these departments.

The University of Washington has been awarded a FEMA grant that provides seed money for an important study of disaster planning at UW. In one year the report made possible by this study must be submitted to FEMA.

Lier said disaster planning is of crucial importance at the University of Washington for several reasons. In a time of emergency, she noted, faculty, staff and administrators become, in effect, “caregivers” of the University’s students. Faculty, staff and administrators must come forward and guide the students through the crisis. Effective emergency preparedness also expedites the recovery period and the return to normal functioning of the University. Lier emphasized that the University is responsible not only to its students, in the event of a disaster, but also to the entire University community, and to the greater community beyond the bounds of the campus.

In California, where Lier has spent much of her professional life, disaster planning – particularly planning for earthquakes – is perhaps taken more seriously than it is in Washington state. The 1989 earthquake in and around San Francisco and San Francisco Bay is the most dramatic recent disaster in California. But several other earthquakes have struck in recent years, in the Los Angeles area as well as in the northern part of the state. But, as Lier pointed out, the Pacific Northwest has witnessed the enormous disaster of Mount St. Helens only 20 years ago. And she detailed disconcerting, if not ominous, aspects of Mt. Rainier’s appearance when seen from above, and the mountain’s increasing vulnerability to volcanic eruption. (It
must be remembered that Mount St. Helens’ eruption was not predicted until the disaster was only weeks away, so the lack of predictions of imminent danger from Mt. Rainier is hardly secure ground for unpreparedness.)

“We owe it to the whole Seattle community to be prepared to get back to business as soon as possible in the event of an earthquake, volcanic eruption, or any other disaster,” Lier insisted. As for less catastrophic, yet still very serious, crises for which the University should be prepared, McCray said City Light wants the University to give a report on its state of preparedness for a possible electrical blackout. McCray said the University must be aware of the possible debilitation of the extensive research facilities in Health Sciences, as well as crucial facilities in University Hospital, should a major blackout occur.

Lier said a disaster resistant University steering committee is gathering information on the current status of emergency planning and will guide the University’s efforts in conducting a major reassessment of all aspects of emergency preparedness at UW. The steering committee is composed of representatives from all sectors of the campus. (Douglas Zuberbuhler has agreed to serve as the FCUFS representative on the committee.) Lier said the steering committee will have its own Web page, and will welcome suggestions from faculty and staff on ways to enhance and communicate strategies for disaster planning.

Schaufelberger suggested that a comprehensive checklist of safety measures could be distributed to faculty and staff throughout the campus. McCray and Coulter both said there are safety measure checklists “out there,” but that better ways of disseminating them to the entire University community need to be developed. “We need to make people think more about this,” Coulter urged. Gates said she showed a video about such safety measures to colleagues and staff in the Drama Department; the video had been given to her department by Arts and Sciences. Aylward (from Radiology) said in her department, where she and her colleagues are in dire need of space, many of the safety measures would be of debatable use. There is literally no room in which to maneuver fixtures and materials as the safety measures prescribe.

Schaufelberger thanked Lier for visiting the council and speaking to an issue of considerable importance to all faculty at UW.

Campus security - Vicky Peltzer, Police Chief, UW Police Department

Vicky Peltzer comes to her new position of Police Chief, UW Police Department, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she worked with the city police.

Peltzer outlined the four divisions of her department, which now includes Community Relations (together with Support Services), and the department is undergoing a major restructuring of computer operations.

Julie Golding heads the division of Office Support, which includes budget, purchasing, audit, payroll, administrative support, facilities, and technology / computing. Assistant Chief Emmet Storno is the head of Operations. This division includes Capt. Steve Robinson, three patrol shifts, a bike patrol, special events, communications, traffic (including event traffic) and parking enforcement. Asst. Chief Annette Spicuzza is in charge of Administrative Services. This division includes personnel, policies / procedures, planning and research (overseen by Capt. Jon Brouelette), and grants, records and training (overseen by Sgt. David Girts). Finally, Capt. Randy Stegmeier is in charge of Community Relations / Support Services, which includes Lt. John Schultz and Sgt. Richard Lewis, four full-time detectives, crime prevention, security guards, intelligence, crime analysis, recruiting and backgrounds. (This is not a complete listing of the separate entities of the four divisions, but it highlights several key entities in each division.)

There are 51 officers in the UW Police Department, and approximately 50 staff members. The officers must be actively recruited (there is strong competition in this field), and UW police officers now make a salary comparable to that of the surrounding police agencies.

Peltzer has hired two new assistant chiefs, and said the UW Police Department is undergoing a major restructuring of computer operations. Community Relations is a new feature in the restructuring.
Peltzer said UW Police makes many crime prevention presentations, and carries out considerable intelligence gathering. She said a major difference between city police work and police work at a university is that the former, for the most part, is “call driven,” while university police work is much more “preventative.” The campus, she noted, is “a closer community” than are other environments in the city.

A surprise to Peltzer in Seattle is the degree and intensity of “activism,” not only at the student level but outside the campus (an obvious example is the WTO protest, which has made Seattle an international byword for activism). This vocal activism “has a major impact on the UW Police Department,” Peltzer said. “One effect is that we will have to step down on our use of support weapons.” (There was a near-unanimous negative reaction on campus to the use of support weapons.)

Peltzer said, “We need to do a better job of getting out our message of what we do” both to the University community and to the community beyond the campus.

She said there is now a campus security advisory committee looking into workplace violence at the University. Human Resources will be making campus-wide presentations on workplace violence, with special training for supervisors and people who assess violence in the workplace. Peltzer said the UW Police Department is trying to establish a campus-wide reporting center. But if anyone fears that violence may break out in their office or unit, they should notify their supervisor immediately, and should call the campus police. They should not hesitate to call the campus police (calling 9-911 puts one through to the police dispatch center.)

Peltzer said that when a violent incident occurs the first response is that of police officers. Representatives from Human Resources, the Attorney General’s Office, and the department compose an assessment team. A debriefing team will provide counseling from Human Resources to those affected by the incident: students, staff, and faculty in the immediate vicinity, or anyone with a close connection to the victim or victims of the violence. Finally, a review team will conduct an inquiry into the incident.

Asked about physical security on campus, Peltzer said, “We’re working on crime prevention. We experimented with a ‘crime watch,’ a listserv that gives current crime information. We’ll have a security ‘hot page’ on our Web site. We’re looking at setting up adequate security in every part of the campus.” Schaufelberger said, “A lot of this is a matter of awareness.” Coulter said, “Faculty can help with security issues, and we also need security guards in places like Health Sciences, but it is hard to get the necessary budget for security guards.” Peltzer also said the UW Police Department will bring back its newsletter, which will help sustain general awareness of issues bearing on violence, and potential violence, throughout the University.

Next meeting

The next FCUFS meeting is set for Monday, November 27, 2000, at 2:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder