VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Finance, Audit & Facilities Committee

Housing & Food Services (HFS) Master Plan Phase I Construction – Status Report

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Note for duration of project: Written semi-annual reports in January & July. Oral semi-annual updates in March & October.

INFORMATION

Two items are being presented for information regarding the Phase 1 portion of the Student Housing program.

The purpose of the first presentation is to provide a status report on the demand for on-campus housing for the Autumn Quarter 2009. The previously submitted credit analysis for the HFS Master Plan Phase I identified this information as critical to the decision to continue with the construction of the first two of four on-campus residential facilities. The credit analysis included two off-ramps, the first of which stipulated that if demand for on-campus housing was at 90 percent or less of normal existing capacity for Autumn 2009, then construction of Phase I would be postponed. (The second off-ramp occurs in Autumn 2010 when occupancy will be established for the 2010–11 academic year.)

The purpose of the second presentation is to provide an update on the exterior design of the four new student housing facilities planned for construction in West Campus. The first two buildings, sites 31W and 33W, which are slated to open in August 2011, have just finished the design development phase. The second two buildings, sites 32W and 35W, which are slated to open in August 2012, have finished the schematic design phase. Due to extremely favorable construction conditions, the design team has been able to recommend brick as an exterior finish which creates a more refined collegiate appearance.
B. Finance, Audit & Facilities Committee

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STATUS REPORT: DEMAND FOR ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

For Autumn Quarter 2009, occupancy within on-campus housing exceeds capacity. As of October 1, 2009, 5,674 (single) students are living in on-campus residence halls. This includes 792 students in repurposed spaces—including rooms designed for one or two persons but accommodating two or three, respectively, and graduate student housing that has been converted to residence hall inventory. In addition, 117 students are living in temporary accommodations such as floor lounges and 125 students remain on the waitlist and will move into on-campus housing as space becomes available. Occupancy for Autumn Quarter 2009 is currently 119 percent of designed capacity.

Consistent with previous years, 65.6 percent of the freshmen class currently lives in residence halls, while there was a slight increase in the number of returning students from the Spring to Autumn Quarters at 41.9 percent, up from 35.8 percent in Autumn Quarter 2008. While true demand cannot be fully known, it should be noted that 1,912 students cancelled their on-campus housing application at some point after the application was submitted to HFS; a portion of these cancellations were due to our inability to guarantee on-campus housing. Demand for on-campus housing for Autumn Quarter 2009 continues the trend of demand exceeding supply and supports the decision to construct additional residence halls on the University of Washington Seattle campus.

UPDATE: EXTERIOR DESIGN

Because of the favorable construction bidding environment, and having GCCM contractors on board who are experienced in this type of construction, we see opportunities to upgrade the exterior elements of the four buildings to now include masonry, hardwood and weathering steel. Renderings depicting this new aesthetic concept as well as material boards will be presented.