Physical Environment Committee
Minutes

2/18/15
8:00 am - 9:00 am
Lincoln Building Conference Room

Meeting Called by
Ted Curtis & Harvey Sterns – Co-Conveners

Type of Meeting
University Council Committee Meeting

Facilitators
Ted Curtis & Harvey Sterns – Co-Conveners

Notes Submitted by:
Shelly Keller

Absent
Shawn Stevens
Matt Wilson

Attendees
Ted Curtis, Co-Convener
Harvey Sterns, Chair/Co-Convener
Ann Hassenpflug, Vice Chair
Shelly Keller, Secretary
Stewart Blessing
Julie Hykes
Zach Kisor
Chuck Kunsman
Isaac Lampner
Denise Montanari
Bill Thelin

Invited Guests
Ralph Morrone
Travis Pero

Agenda topics

Minute Approval

Discussion
Approval of the 1/21/15 minutes was requested.

Conclusions
Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes and Julie seconded the motion all members in attendance were in favor.
Central Hower

Campus Clean Up Day

Earth Day Tree Request - Travis Pero - President Honors Hall Government - Emerging Leader Earth Day
- Honors Hall Government would like to do a tree donation and ceremony.
- Event would be similar to Field Day.
- Field Day activities would raise funds for the tree.
- A resident student's father, who is in the landscape business, would bring tree and plant for us.
- Plaque or commemorative stone would be placed in front of tree. Stone could be obtained for a discount.
- Location is not known yet. Would need to see what locations are available.
- Tentative date is Earth Day, April 22 or that Monday before.
- Travis advised their top choice is a pear tree right now due to the beautiful blossoms for which they are known.
- Ralph advised Travis, the Sierra Club does a huge earth day every year. Ralph offered to get them connected so their groups could possibly work together.
- Motion made by Denise to support this initiative and the motion was second by Ted; all members in attendance were in favor.

Campus Clean Up Day
- Zach reported he is working with Andy Henry on two possible dates April 4th and April 18th. Chuck advised the 18th will be busy with many events. Once the date has been selected more information will be available.

Space Utilization Central Hower
- Ann asked Jim Haskell when the Central Hower (CH) unused space will be ready and what budget will this be coming from? Ann also asked if the space will be used for the College of Education or swing space. Jim advised if the project becomes funded and approved it should be a three week turnaround. The Provost agrees to support project. 18K has been set aside for the project. Jim is not sure where those funds will come from; it is up to the department to assign.
- The approval process comes from the Capital Planning Division to Dean Clark. An account code is provided and the division talks to the Provost's office for signatures, then it is returned to Capital Planning.
- The Nurses office will remain in its current location.
- Ann asked how the locks will be handled on the doors. Jim advised the locks are already in the university system. Those locks will be changed over to College of Education system.
- There may be other spaces available; currently Jim is generating evaluations of the older industrial arts area. Some challenges are present due to the work of concrete, mixing dust and the noise is loud. Jim will work through those issues. The area mentioned is not definite yet. The request for space usage was placed last week and there is no deadline for a decision. Industrial arts area not ideal for classroom space as it is in the northeast corner of CH, near the gymnasium, which is used all day long and is very noisy.

Central Hower Issue
- Ted advised that the City of Akron Police Department conducted a drug sweep of space at CH. Neither Capital Planning nor the University of Akron Police Department (UAPD) were made aware of this action. The University received many complaints about not being made aware of the drug sweep. The City of Akron Police Department did not know we occupy space in CH. Moving forward they will communicate with us.

Snow Closure
- Shelly explained the groups involved who provide the Provost and the Communications Department information about making the decision to close the university are Physical Facilities, for a report from the Grounds Department on how the snow removal on campus is going and UAPD for Safety of the campus and surrounding areas. For example, have any driving bans or snow emergencies been placed in the area?
- Bill brought up proposal that, if given enough time, the instructors teach from Springboard if the weather warrants a concern for students traveling to class.
- Jim asked how much notice you would need to teach from Springboard. Bill expected that at least a couple of hours would be needed.
- It was asked what the capacity of Springboard is. Isaac was able to communicate with an official that works with Springboard and they would expect the entire student population would not all log on Springboard at the exact same time and they should be able to run. If the entire student body logged on at once then it would not be able to handle the load.
- UA can't be the only ones dealing with this issue. Possibly check with other colleges or use the Blizzard Bag idea that many local school districts use?
- Ted shared a memo from Joe Gregor, Assistant VP for Physical Facilities, explaining the University Snow Event from 2/1/15 – 2/3/15. (See ATTACHMENT University Closing Snow Event 2-1-15 – 2-3-15)
- Bill made a motion to submit a topic request to University Council to further look into this idea and Chuck seconded it. All in attendance were in favor.
Classroom survey –
- Harvey made a call to Rex Ramsier for his assistance in getting our survey out to all faculty members through the email system and with the Provost office’s support. We will try to pull the data for the next meeting. Harvey suggested that we look first at the classrooms who are the true offenders. Jim would like to see results also.
- An inquiry was made about the status of the Buckingham Building. It currently is close to full occupancy yet was slated to close last year. The location is great however the building is in bad shape.

Old Business -
- Ted advised that some things have changed since the presentation at our last meeting of the North Quad Tunnel Project.
- We quoted a price of $2.2mil. Certain items like fees, contingency, more rock than we thought in excavation, were not included in that price. It was first thought to reuse existing dirt; we will now need engineered filled dirt.
- Future capabilities for electrical loop -we now feel we can tie those in to Buchtel Common.
- Prices were off by 50%, and the new price is being evaluated right now for value of project.
- There is money set aside in performance contracting.
- Ralph explained as costs come in, we are still very excited about project.
- Bulger, Spanton, Orr, Rob’s and Sisler McFawn are all powered by individual boilers. All boilers are slated to be replaced in kind like per like. We plan to use existing equipment as backup.
- Currently the cost is $3.2mil and we are fighting for a firm number. Johnson Controls is also involved.
- We can still hit the May start date at this point. Large insurance policy. Trying to go forward with as many tunnels as possible.
- Shelly made a motion that with the price increase to $3.2mil, the committee was still in favor of the proposal. Bill seconded the motion and all that were in attendance were in favor.

Adjournment -
- Julie made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Shelly seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor.

Next Meetings:
- March 18, 2015 - 8:00am – 9:00am
- April 22, 2015 - 8:00am – 9:00am
- May 13, 2015 - 8:00am – 9:00am
- June 17, 2015 (tentative) - 8:00am – 9:00am