

## REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

### **University Senate Committee: Physical Plant Planning Committee**

#### **Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:**

A Physical Plant Planning Committee with a modernized name, membership, scope, and functions will be better able to fulfill its potential as a faculty governance entity charged with representing the interests of students, faculty, and staff on issues with the potential to impact the usability, accessibility and sustainability of the campuses and the well-being of those who study, work, and live on them.

#### **Points Discussed by Committee:**

The prior text for the FASRP that convenes the committee was somewhat vague and inadequately addressed the changing campus environment of UW-Eau Claire, including UWEC-Barron County, housing units outside of the campus boundaries, and shared facilities such as the Pablo Center and the County Materials Complex.

Singling out specific academic departments for inclusion in the committee no longer makes sense and increased the difficulty of achieving a quorum at meetings. The new committee membership would include students, faculty, and/or staff representing the extended campuses.

Because of the campus' increasing emphasis on human health and environmental sustainability in its academic mission, this committee can better serve the campus with an expanded scope of usability, accessibility, sustainability, and human well-being with the potential to impact institutional strategic goals and its core mission.

There is an opportunity for members of the committee to serve as a sort of campus "ombuds" in matters related to campus facilities. When an employee or student is adversely affected by infrastructure issues related to the proposed scope, and are unable to achieve resolution through standard means, this provides campus governance a role in resolving such issues – bringing them to Senate should that become necessary.

While there is the potential for logistical challenges in assuring committee membership from across campuses, it was written to allow representation by voting or non-voting, students, faculty, or staff members on the committee. And while the "responsibility to represent" is specified in the language, there are many ways to ensure that.

The functions of this committee specifically require governance representation on certain committees generally appointed by administration. While this may not be remembered when the committees are initially formed, this language provides a mechanism for the Committee chair to intervene and request a member of this committee participate in these critical infrastructure planning activities.

Another function of the committee articulates periodic reporting of planning and financing of infrastructural changes on campus to the committee. This normalizes the transparency of such decisions, and if there are ever any concerns about plans or expenditures, this committee is able to bring them to the attention of Senate.

#### **Pros of Recommendation:**

- appropriately rewrites language for a UWEC committee operating in the 2020's
- strengthens governance; gives a voice to campus governance on matters pertaining to facilities
- inclusive of wider campus definition than before, better addressing the needs of our expanding campus
- improves both direction for committee and representation of units within the committee
- new language is much more holistic with respect to the scope and its functions
- Wording is more direct and clear; committee name is more easily understood

#### **Cons of Recommendation:**

- potential logistical challenges in meeting membership representation
- creates potential for much more work for committee members and chair

**Technology/Human Resource/Workload Impact:**

- No additional technology or human resource load
- Workload will increase for members of the committee:
  - When there is a Campus Master Plan in development (not currently, perhaps needed)
  - When there is one (or more) building committees convened
  - Periodic reporting from administration appointed committee members
- Workload increases may be mitigated by the possibility (as is currently the case) that current committee members may ALREADY be serving on such committees

**Committee Recommendation:** Affirmative

## MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee:

by a vote of 8 for to 0 against on 10/31/2022 (via Qualtrics survey) (Date)

Note: votes counted are from all currently serving voting members with no abstentions or absences.

Recommends that:

The following revised language be adopted in the FASRP: Part III – Article Four: University Governance Committees and Councils under Section A – University Senate Committees, 6. (page 33), altering the name, membership, scope, and function of this committee.

6. University Senate ~~Physical Plant Planning~~ **Campus Infrastructure** Committee

- a. Membership: The committee includes at least ~~nine members: three University Faculty senators and two University Academic Staff senators elected by the University Senate; one member elected by and from the department of art & design; one member elected by and from the department of biology; and one member elected by and from the department of geography and anthropology.~~ Members shall serve three year terms unless membership is terminated by expiration of University Senate membership as described in the bylaws. One administrative representative appointed by the chancellor will be a non-voting member of the committee. Two university staff members may be selected by the University Staff Council to serve on this committee for three year terms. One student, who will be non-voting, may be appointed by the Student Senate to serve on this committee for a one year term. (US 3/11, 4/13, 10/14, 3/15) **eight voting members: two University Faculty senators, two University Academic Staff senators, and two University Staff members selected by the University Staff Council. In addition, two other members of the University faculty will be elected by the Senate to represent departments with expertise relevant to the committee's mission (such as health, sustainability, ecosystems, planning, design, etc.) Voting members serve three-year terms unless membership is terminated by expiration of University Senate or Staff Council membership as described in their bylaws.**

**Two non-voting representatives will be appointed by the chancellor from Facilities, and the offices of Budget & Resource Planning or Safety, Risk Management & Sustainability. Two non-voting student members shall be appointed to participate on this committee: one by the Student Senate president and one by the Student Office of Sustainability director.**

**Of all committee members, at least one shall have responsibility to represent UWEC-BC faculty/staff/students. At least one other shall have responsibility to represent faculty/staff/students who have a University workspace or residence apart from the main campus (such as The Priory, Marshfield campus, Haymarket Landing, County Materials Complex, Pablo Center for the Arts, etc.) to represent the interests of other campuses. (US 11/22)**

- b. Scope: **The Campus Infrastructure Committee (CIC) maintains a focus on issues inclusive of all UW-Eau Claire campus buildings, grounds (including Putnam Park), and other infrastructure that have the potential to impact institutional strategic goals and core mission and/or the usability, accessibility and sustainability of the campuses and the well-being of its students, faculty, and staff. (US 11/22)**
- c. Function: ~~The committee shall recommend policies for the long-range development of the physical plant, for utilization of campus space, and for landscaping. It shall also be charged with policies for protection and development of Putnam Park.~~ **Functions: (1) The CIC shall accept input, maintain awareness of issues, provide information to the University Senate, University Staff Council, and Student Senate, and guidance to the administration related to its scope, above. (2) The CIC shall consider and recommend related policies and implementation procedures. (3) Campus committee(s) tasked with work to develop and update the Campus Master Plan shall include at least two voting members of the CIC. All campus building construction and renovation committees shall include at least one**

**voting member of the CIC. (4) University administration shall report annually to the CIC the allocated disbursement of funds applied to physical infrastructure, and Facilities shall report to the CIC significant campus building and development projects at the start of each academic year. (US 11/22)**

Implementation Date: Upon publication of the January 2023 FASRP

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office