



## Faculty Senate Committee on Physical Facilities Annual Report, Academic Year 2020/2021

### **Committee Members:**

Ellen Costello, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison (SMHS)  
Elizabeth Amundson, Registrar, Non-voting  
Catherine Cox (SON)  
David Dent, Office of the Executive Vice President and Treasurer, Non-voting  
Linda Gallo (SMHS)  
Frederick Joutz (CCAS)  
Terry Murphy (CCAS)  
Raj Rao (SMHS)  
John Traub (CCAS)  
Dan Wright (Center for Student Engagement)  
Anna Weber (GWSA), nonvoting  
Eric Grynawiski (CCAS)  
Sylvia A. Marotta-Walters (GSEHD), Chair

Committee Meeting Dates: May 28, 2020; August 17, 2020; September 14, 2020; November 2, 2020; February 17, 2021; April 12, 2021.

Campus Spaces Meetings attended by Chair on behalf of Committee: June 16, 2020; June 24, 2020; June 29, 2020; July 1, 2020; July 6, 2020; July 8, 2020; July 13, 2020; Jul 15, 2020; July 22, 2020; July 27, 2020; July 29, 2020; August 5, 2020; August 12, 2020; August 26, 2020; September 9, 2020; September 23, 2020; October 7, 2020; November 4, 2020; December , 2020; April 19, 2021.

Campus Planning Meetings attended by Chair on behalf of Committee: October 23, 2020; November 20, 2020

### **Issues Discussed/Actions Taken**

Fall 2020 discussions centered around three areas: Campus safety during the pandemic; Thurston Hall renovations; HVAC issues in residence halls and academic buildings.

#### **Campus Safety**

Over the summer the focus was on how to create and improve signage for a return to campus, measuring spaces to comply with CDC standards for physical distancing to determine which would be usable. As the summer came to a close and the decision was made to remain virtual for the fall semester, the conversation changed to safety protocols for COVID testing, and managing the small number of students who would be allowed on campus. Details of these discussions can be found in the Interim Report submitted in December 2020.

#### **Thurston Hall Renovation**

The committee met with relevant administrators to understand the three phases of work related to Thurston. These are rebuilding the outer structure, utility work upgrades; improving the streetscape. The committee learned about the size and quality of rooms, bathrooms, and sustainability concerns.

Regarding the structure, the main focus was on rebuilding the elevator footing. Double rooms will be the main portion of the building, at 89%. New public-private bathrooms have been built in each corner of the building, with 3-5 private spaces and at least one ADA compliant bathroom per bathroom space. The entire building will be LEED Gold certified, and a part of this sustainability work will be a cistern on the roof which will hold 20K gallons of water. The entire project is on time and on budget, at approximately \$108 million.

### **HVAC Upgrades**

All campus buildings have been evaluated for air-handling equipment, protocols for a re-start, and a rating system was created for all campus buildings. Some of the HVAC issues pre-dated the pandemic and the goal has been to modernize as much as is possible. Monies have been set aside in the FY2022 budget to address many of these upgrades.

The committee learned that all buildings are safe in terms of health. However, a tiered system was developed with newer buildings being in a high suitability category, another tier in a medium suitability category, and a third in a low suitability category. Most of the low suitability buildings are the townhouses. The current press is to bring as many of the buildings that are in the highest area of the low suitability category to medium suitability. For example, eight residence halls were evaluated in the spring semester to determine how to optimize them for the fall and all were improved. An additional eight buildings had work done; seven of these were academic and one was a residence hall. Of the eight, three had outdated equipment and could not be moved from low to medium (Building GG, Phillips, and the Philip Amsterdam House). The others were brought to medium suitability. The next focus of attention will be to modernize Fungler (high medium), Duques (high medium), and the Law School.

By the end of summer an additional 17 buildings will be worked on and at least half of them will be completed by then.

As this work continues, the committee will receive monthly updates. The committee had questions about inclusion of all campuses in the upgrade work and this was confirmed. Additionally, a fact sheet will be created to provide information on project progress.

### **Mitchell Hall**

The next residence hall renovation will be to update Mitchell Hall. A committee was formed and the chair of Physical Facilities is part of the project planning competition. Decisions will be made by the end of spring semester.

### **Planning for Fall 2021**

A new committee was formed from two of last year's committees; this new committee is charged with preparing for a full return in fall of 2021. The new committee is called Campus Spaces and Events. Weekly meetings are planned for the duration of the spring and into the summer. Two members of the Physical Facilities Committee will be a part of these weekly meetings.

The Physical Facilities Committee had representatives meeting with administration and with Senate leadership to provide discussion and question and answer sessions on all the above topics.

Submitted by Sylvia A. Marotta-Walters, Chair