Planning & Development Committee Meeting
October 11, 2001

Present: Lauren Adamson, Al Baumstark, Dan Benardot, Damon Camp, John DeCastro, Dabney Dixon, Nancy Floyd, Martin Fraser, Peggy Gallagher, Katherine Johnston, Richard (Dick) Miller, Lloyd G. Nigro, Ted Poister, George Rainbolt, Balasubramaniam Ramesh, Robert Sattelmeyer, Hazel Scott, Phang Tai, Susan Walcott, Bill Waugh, Leslie Williams (for Dorie Taylor), Carol Winkler, Julia Young.


Others Attending: Paul Katz

Phang Tai brought the meeting to order & asked if anyone had corrections to the 9/24/01 minutes. The minutes were approved without any corrections.

Tai started the meeting with discussion of the new proposed sub-committee that will deal with university closings in the event an emergency. He mentioned that 3 people had already volunteered to be on the committee: Bill Waugh, Dick Miller & Martin Fraser. He asked for other volunteers & Julie Young said that she would also join.

Tai then moved on to the 2nd issue of the meeting: Fire Safety.

Dabney Dixon opened the Fire Safety discussion with the issue of the trash cans: compliance to fire safety regulations require that trash cans be placed only in certain areas. She discussed how Science Faculty felt harassed at times. Al Baumstark: "If one person misplaces 1 trash can, the write-ups from the fire safety office, on that 1 misplacement, are taken out of context."

Al Baumstark, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, spoke about communication problems with the safety office. He said that he had received an email saying that he approved something that he had never seen before, then when he asked to see what he supposedly approved, he was told that he had it and must have lost it. Then, when he asked that the information be re-emailed back to him, he was told that he was trying to halt progress. He mentioned that he had no doubt that the faculty & staff wanted a safe work environment, but that trust & communication within the departments in question needed “working out.”

Dabney Dixon reiterated that an importance of priority needed to be placed on issues of compliance. Al Baumstark finished the discussion in regards to the trash can problem saying that he would welcome any suggestions that people had to help the issue.
Phang Tai spoke of a possible sub-committee of faculty & staff to look into rectifying current ongoing communication problems with the safety office.  "We don’t want to have to re-hash these same problems at every meeting."  Dabney Dixon said that she wasn’t sure that faculty and staff would be willing to go to those types of meetings because they could be extremely time consuming without any type of administrative structure to help plan a foreseeable end.  Katherine Johnston said that she could guarantee that the problem would be brought to an end, she just didn’t know how long it would take.  At the request of P.C. Tai, Katherine Johnston said that she would be glad to supply the P&D Committee with some sort of report to keep them abreast of progress.  (Note: an unresolved problem: faculty office opened or closed while talking to students.)

Phang Tai moved on to the issue of the current budget freeze plan.  The University was asked to submit a plan for a possible budget freeze that would equal to a 2.5% ($4.1 million) budget cut this year and a 5% ($8.2 million) cut for next year.  The major sources of money to be listed on the plan in the event of a cut will be hiring freezes, travel, and moving & renovation money.  Freezes in Quality Improvement and Technology Equipment will account for about $900,000 of any possible cut.

Katherine Johnston mentioned that plans to renovate ‘freed-up’ space resulting from moves from the credit union, recreation center, & the sport arena can also be a source of money to be frozen to help satisfy the 2.5%.  She mentioned that the designs for that ‘freed-up’ space will go forward; their cost is minimal.  Also the yearly $1.7 million from move & renovation within the university will be used for any planned cut.

Carol Winkler asked, “P.C., Can we anticipate that those moves will not happen until a year and ½?”  P.C. Tai answered, “Everything’s possible.”  Tai said that it was also important to remember that the planned cut was to be from state budget money; money outside of the state fund was not being ‘targeted’.  As an example, he mentioned, "If enrollment increased, more money would be received from tuition, and that money could be used to help balance those cuts."

Tai said that Ron Henry had explained that the committee would not necessarily be ‘stuck’ to the final plan that would be given to the Board of Regents.  Tai said that the FACP committee would discuss what was priority.  One problem that was currently being discussed was how to make cuts without affecting the academic areas where we need it to maintain/increase enrollment.  Tai used the GSU Physical Plant & Maintenance areas as an example, saying that the services that those areas provide affect the academic programs, and cuts from their areas had to be carefully planned.

Lauren Adamson asked if FACP had considered the range of possibilities in the event that the cut was not needed.  Katherine Johnston responded; “I think FACP has taken a very optimistic view; they submitted a plan last Friday.  Regents will combine all of the plans and present a general plan to the Office of Planning & Budget; that will be Plan A.  The compilation of all of the plans of the institutional units will be Plan B, which will consist of central office cuts as well.  Those plans will be reviewed by OPD & we will have a response (knowing the magnitude of our cut) by November 15th.

Dick Miller asked if it was possible that the $4.1 million would be increased?  Tai responded that only the Governor’s office would know that.

Nancy Floyd spoke on concerns of moving people in the Art & Design Bldg. over to the Aquatics building.  “I realize this is still a planning stage, but it was told that new space would be given because the building is unhealthy due to ventilation problems.”  Katherine Johnston answered that she didn’t think the move of Art & Design to Aquatics was a “done deal” yet and that the operations budget was where the reduction had been assigned to come from.  Tai mentioned that state money had been assigned to the move but was not involved in the 2.5%.

Robert Sattlemeyer spoke for the Class Facilities Council.  He said that he hadn’t heard any new issues on the Sparks Hall renovations (those renovations were almost done).  “The Aderhold building is still on schedule & should be turned over to us by the end of March.  This has a crucial impact on enrollment & revenue.”  Katherine
Johnston said that the bid for the project came in lower than what was expected & a lot of money was added back. Money for equipment furnishings for the project would have to come from a separate budget; about $700,000 furniture was still needed.

Robert Sattlemeyer reported on ongoing problems with UETS support to classrooms. One of the major problems being encountered was the shortage of PC Equipment & workstations. He mentioned that there was also an “assignment” problem with those classrooms because faculty sometimes exaggerated their need for those rooms. As a result, requests for those types of rooms would have to be routed through each department’s dean’s office.

Al Baumstark mentioned that some of his faculty actually had to carry blackboards to class on a daily basis. He explained that there was a serious logistics problem at hand: **Low tech. methods (i.e. blackboards, period tables, etc.) were needed to explain the high tech. methods.** Policy says that faculty should use what’s appropriate, but both areas (low & high tech.) are needed.

In the absence of Harvey Shumpert, Katherine Johnston gave an update on the Library South building. "The stabilization is almost complete, and it should be opening Sunday at noon. The 're-bricking' is estimated to be finished by August 15th, and once it’s complete the bridge will be able to be re-opened. A 24hr/day restaurant will open up on the side of the Aderhold building that faces the Realto"

Peggy Gallagher spoke about problems & plans for the G-Parking Deck. Because of several issues involved in the upkeep of that parking facility (grime, flooding, security, etc.), within the next 5 years the parking fee will need to be raised to apx. $60/mth. The alternative (to just stabilize the deck) would result in costs of apx. $1.5million.

Carol Winkler asked if there had been any plans in the future for a new office building. Tai responded not in the immediate future, only in the GSU Master plan.

Lloyd Nigro asked about the Wachovia Building? Katherine Johnston answered, “The Wachovia Building is well on its way. The construction documents should be done by January and with any luck, we should be finished by March 2003."

Tai asked if anyone had looked in to renting office space. Katherine Johnston said that the new Real Estate officer’s job was to find space, but the dilemma was how that space would be paid for. Office moves from the Art & Design may result in more space 3 to 4 years down the line, which would help.

**The meeting was adjourned at apx. 2:40pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lydia K. Woltz