Planning & Development Committee Meeting  
November 19, 2001


Others Attending: N/A

AGENDA
Approval of the minutes from 10/11/01
Subcommittee Reports
Facilities Updates
New Business

Phang Tai brought the meeting to order & asked if anyone had corrections to the 10/11/01 minutes. He announced that Katherine Johnston had minor changes, but since she was not there he’d make a motion to accept those minutes pending her changes. The motion was approved.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS
Subcommittee on University Closings
Dick Miller & Julia Young gave a brief update on the new subcommittee on university closings, saying that they had only met once since the last P&D meeting and were still gathering information. One of their main concerns right now was the issue of closing vs. evacuating the University.

CBSAC
Lauren Adamson reported for the CBSAC committee. “It was a brief meeting, and the major item of consideration was space that may ultimately be vacated to Park Place.” She spoke on how space was being allocated between different buildings based on both the budget and academic need. The areas being affected are the part of the Park Place Building that is being vacated by the Athletic department. The space was temporarily allocated to Communication & African American Studies, and Computer Science. She mentioned due to the budget, space would probably not be available any time soon. It was also being considered that space be vacated from some areas of Alumni Hall. She said they would meet again in about a week to talk about the subject again.

FACP
John DeCastro reported on FACP. “There’s not a great deal of visibility on the budget issue. The worse case scenerio is that of a full 5% budget cut next year plus not getting the ‘hold harmless’ money. If that would happen it would be a disaster, but it probably won’t happen. A lot of time was spent in the last meeting talking about student fee requests, and those were approved.” There’s a plan on the table that’s been tentatively endorsed by FACP to replace the temporary parking decks with one big deck, funded through a bond issue. This will unfortunately result in an increase in parking fees. Depreciation costs will be built into the new parking fees; right now, it's not a part of our current parking fees. P.C. Tai asked about the 2.5% budget cut. DeCastro mentioned that the Regents Pass Through Budget would be one of the items considered to be cut. He explained that the Pass Through Budget was money put into the budget by the Board of Regents that was really for regents activities and was money that they used to fund things they needed to do.

P.C. Tai asked Al Baumstark about the completion of the Survey Table from the Action Plan. Baumstark
responded that he wasn’t actually the representative for the committee, but the committee was currently involved in issues such as graduate training, health insurance issues, and the measuring of research productivity from faculty. He said these items were mentioned but not addressed in the actual plan. He wanted more emphasis placed on implementing these issues (esp. research productivity) into the actual plan instead of just discussing them.

**FACILITIES UPDATES**

*Classrooms Committee*

John DeCastro reported for the Classrooms Committee: "We’ve only met once since the last P&D meeting & the only major issue was the progress of the Aderhold Building, which is on schedule to be turned over in March. This will make a tremendous difference in the flexibility of our schedule because it will consist of apx. 2800-2900 classroom seats to open by Fall."

**Safety**

Tai moved on to the issue of Safety and questioned whether there were any emergency back-up power/electrical plans in place, in the event of an electrical outage. Robert Sattelmeyer responded that since there were only 4 floors in question he didn’t think there was an emergency power plan in place. Tai stated this could be a major issue to consider.

**Open/Close Door Policy**

Tai opened up the next issue: the policy on doors. Fire safety says certain doors need to be open, harassment policy says office doors should be open when meeting with students; the rules conflict with each other in certain areas. He mentioned a secondary problem with the closed door policy was the HVAC systems in some areas (i.e., room temperature & air flow).

Al Baumstark stated that the fire marshall’s office has gone to the extent of confiscating doorstops that were keeping doors open that they maintained should be closed. Baumstark explained that if a hallway outside a door had an egress to the building, then that door (if it opened up into that hallway), couldn’t be propped open unless it had a magnetic release to do so, then if the fire alarm was triggered the door would automatically close. "The assumption is, if the door is propped open (leading into the hallway) someone might get stuck behind the door during a fire. So the door has to have a magnetic release or it’s a fire code violation. The width of the corridor does not matter." He explained that the minimum egress is 44 inches on a hallway. Even if a hallway is 8 ft. wide, bigger than a normal hallway, if the university’s plans has it designated as a hallway, the rule still stands. If the university’s plans has the area listed as ½ hallway, ½ lobby, or if your door opens inward as opposed to out into the hallway, you may have an exception to the rule.

P.C. Tai mentioned that the door issue might be something that the Executive Committee may need to handle. John DeCastro responded that it was probably not appropriate for the Executive Committee to handle it at the current time because the fire code “trumped” anything that the committee handled and they didn’t have any control over the fire code in any way. He mentioned that the sexual harassment policy, however, was something that they did have some control over and would probably refer it to Faculty Affairs; but he thought that they would need some background information on the policy because of its ambiguity. Lauren Adamson mentioned that the subject had already been referred to a subcommittee. Tai ended the discussion on the door issue stating that a biology faculty in the NSC building was openly robbed while sitting in her office with the door open, and questioned whether access to main entrances could be restricted.
Charlene Hunt gave the facilities update: “We’re back in Library South and we’ve pretty much occupied all the space, but two of the bridges are still closed and the old admin. building is empty. Now they’re about to start re-doing the HVAC system in Library North. They’ll begin soon and it won’t be as disruptive as closing Library South. Beige colored bricks are supposed to be back on Library South by August.”

Phang Tai spoke in the place of Harvey Shumpert. There’s a search currently in progress to find a replacement for Harvey’s old position (Director, Design & Construction Services) and the position of Director of Maintenance & Operation in the Physical Plant department. Katherine Johnston arrived and said they’ve narrowed the search down to about 2-3 candidates & thought it might be possible that they would find someone for Harvey’s position by Christmas.

Tai asked if Katherine Johnston had any more facilities reports. She said all the projects were right on schedule. "The Aderhold Building should finish on schedule by late March & training should take place over April, May & June." She also mentioned that the building will have a 24hr/7day diner that’s eager to open as soon as possible. She asked that everyone pass along the word of their hours of operation, because they were willing to maintain those working hours as long as it proved profitable. Charlene Hunt asked if they were going to provide internet access, because there was a current trend going on in coffee shops to provide internet access to customers. Katherine did not know at this time whether they planned to offer that service.

It was asked what type of classrooms the building would contain. Robert Sattelmeyer responded that because of the building’s close proximity to the College of Business, most of the classrooms were specifically designed (at the request of the business school) for case study classes to fit up to 60 people and have tiered seating. There's also a music rehearsal space located in the building, so many of the classrooms will be designed as music classrooms.

Katherine Johnston briefly spoke on the replacement of the temporary parking decks. She explained that it would cost between 1.5-2 million dollars to fix the decks, so it was more efficient to replace them than repair them. Charlene Hunt asked whether this would free up land space. Katherine said it might.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Robert Sattlemeyer reported on New Business and mentioned that with the new classroom building coming soon, it might be a good idea to have P&D report on the overall master plan and its progression, what changes might be happening with it, and where priorities are for the next major construction (particularly office space). Tai mentioned that the next major project for the university would focus on laboratory teaching.

Tai asked Katherine Johnston if she knew the status of the feasibility study on the Aquarium on the Minor Capital Projects List. Katherine responded that it had gone over to the same architects that previously looked into the adaptation of the Aquatics building to see if Art & Design could be put into that building, and those same architects will be used to see if upgrades to the facility, listed under the Minor Project List, will take care of any ventilation problems. Tai asked if she would continue to give the committee reports on the situation and she affirmed.

In regards to the 2nd recent student-pedestrian/vehicle death, Bonnie Fritz opened a discussion on the university’s response to the heavy traffic areas around the main streets of the campus and GSU’s role of responsibility. Katherine Johnston explained that GSU can issue tickets anywhere within the university, but they do not receive the revenue from those tickets. "The traffic problem is being looked into. Currently GSU is part of a colony study along with Center of Atlanta Progress. GSU will probably receive funding to narrow Decatur Street to 2 lanes, and there will be pick-up and drop-off places. We put in another grant last Friday for this issue. Also, it’s been asked that there be a proposal to declare the perimeter of the campus as a school zone so that the speed limit be lowered to 25m/hr, which will be enforced by GSU."
Katherine Johnston explained that it cost over $25,000 just to get the light on Courtland Street (next to the
bookstore) changed from a flashing light to a standard stop light. She said they've talked to the city about sharing
in the costs and they've also put in for a grant to help in the cost of installing an all-red light which will allow
pedestrians to cross from all sides of the street at one time.

Lauren Adamson talked about the safety of cyclists, mentioning that at the current time the bike paths around
campus were extremely dangerous and questioned whether provisions had been made for them in the upcoming
master plan. Katherine Johnston affirmed that provisions had been made. There was more talk of solutions to the
traffic issue between committee members in regards to more pedestrian lights, walkways, vehicle fines, speeding
solutions, etc. The meeting adjourned at apx. 2pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lydia K. Woltz