Planning & Development Committee Meeting
February 19, 2002

Present: Al Baumstark, Dan Benardot, Damon Camp, Sidney A. Crow, Glennis Curry, John DeCastro, Nancy Floyd, Martin Fraser, Bonnie Fritz, Peggy Gallagher, Steven Kaminshine, Ted Poister, George Rainbolt, Jeff Rupp, Robert Sattelmeyer, Phang Tai, Vijay K. Vaishnavi, Susan Walcott, Leslie Williams for Dorie Taylor, Bill Waugh, Julia Young.


Others Attending: Harvey Shumpert

The meeting began at 1:16pm.

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1) Approval of the 1/14/02 Minutes

2) Subcommittee Reports
   a. Traffic Safety Committee Briefing
   b. University closing Sub-Committee
   c. Classroom Sub-Committee
   d. Urban Life 220 (George Rainbolt)

3) Facility Update
   MRRF List (draft)

4) Other Issues

Phang Tai brought the meeting to order; no changes were made to the 1/14/02 minutes. The minutes were approved.

Bonnie Fritz gave a report on the subcommittee handling Traffic Safety. “We met for the 1st time on February 10th and made a ‘wish list’ and put it in the form of a draft proposal.” She said they would meet again on February 25th to discuss any other thoughts or suggestions presented by other committee members. She also mentioned that Harvey Shumpert was going to send someone from his office to discuss safety measures that were already in place by the University. She said that their last step would be to look at all the obstacles and challenges they would be up against to try to find the best way to conquer them. She mentioned that one of the issues going on with providing the university with more police, was that the police could not get enough time off to go to court to represent any citations that they gave out.
P.C. Tai suggested that the committee may try to find a solution other than handing out tickets/citations to students, because most students that were rushing to class were not going to worry about obeying the street signs. There was also discussion of staggering break times to help students get to class. Bonnie said that the committee would be trying to reach a short-term solution by August 1, 2002.

Steve Kaminshine mentioned that it would be virtually impossible for students to get from (example) GCB to the Aderhold Bldg. within the current break period, and that a placement system of classes would have to be considered in such a case.

George Rainbolt explained that staggered break times would result in a loss of credit hours and that would result in a huge Direct Budget Hit to the department in question, because of that loss.

Vijay K. Vaishnavi mentioned that the committee look into the idea of a shuttle bus to make ‘rounds’ throughout the school day. Bonnie responded that she might be able to list that idea as a long term goal, but it was not anything that could be done by this term. She mentioned it would also help decrease some of the congestion taking place between students & vehicle traffic during the break.

John DeCastro mentioned that some of the costs involved in the current proposed plans would be both political and prohibitive & suggested that the committee think of something more reasonable like focusing on the more dangerous areas (i.e., Classroom South, and Collins & Decatur Street).

Al Baumstark suggested using the registration system to “tag” certain locations/buildings that were not close to each other and then warn students during registration (like in the case of prerequisite warnings) about registering for those types of classes. Bonnie Fritz mentioned that students should also be warned of these issues during New Student Orientation; and eventually ADP was going to provide the committee with a map of the most dangerous intersections.

Bob Sattlemeyer: “Given the enormous size of the Aderhold Building (2800 seats), during prime time we can have in excess 2000+ students changing classes.” Sattlemeyer mentioned that it would not be unreasonable to ask the city to share in the cost of an overhead sign focusing on pedestrian rights. He said that currently, there were few (if any) pedestrian signs surrounding the Aderhold area.

More discussion took place in regards to traffic safety and trying to set a reputation for being a university that would enforce the traffic laws. Bonnie Fritz invited any suggestions or solutions to be sent to her, then the meeting moved onto the next issue.

Marty Fraser briefly reported for the Sub-Committee on University Closings. “The preliminary draft has been broken down into 2 parts with the notion that we need to build on existing plans that the university has in place and also focus on the needs of faculty, staff, & students when a crises has taken place.” It was suggested that the university build another sign (like the one next to the old Recreation Center on the corner of Decatur & Piedmont) to advertise important issues taking place throughout the university.

Nancy Floyd & Bill Waugh discussed how any emergency plans that were put in place would need to be practiced, and how it also needed to be kept in mind that our university’s health facility was not equipped to deal with non-minor emergencies.

Phang Tai ended that portion of the meeting noting that the issue would take some time to resolve, then moved onto the Facilities Reports.
It was briefly reported that the classroom facilities were on schedule. “Aderhold is still on schedule and due for Fall” George Rainbolt reported on the growth of incoming freshman for the upcoming Fall semester. “Coming in the Fall, we’ll be looking at 18% more freshman than last Fall (about 450 more freshman). Room 220 Urban Life (1 out of 11 of the larger classrooms currently available for Fall) is about to be taken off line at the time when we’re getting 400-500 more incoming freshman, and that’s just not realistic. We’ve been listed as one of the ‘Hot Colleges of the South’ and it could be a P.R. disaster if we’re not prepared. Given that the budget is the way it is we cannot hire more visiting instructors to cover those people.”

Robert Sattelmeyer explained that the rationale behind taking it ‘off-line’ was that it was meant to be used temporarily, because it didn’t make a good classroom. Sidney Crow, George Rainbolt, and Al Baumstark mentioned that it wasn’t much worse than many of our other classrooms. George Rainbolt mentioned that he had recently held a seminar in 220UL and everything went well; “The lighting & acoustics were good, but there’s very low technology.”

Al Baumstark mentioned that he had faculty who had used the room before, and that it did need more technology, however, he’d be in favor of keeping the room because the university was short on large rooms.

Steve Kaminshine said that he would need to have more information from CBSAC before he decided to vote to bring it back on-line. (CBSAC, a subcommittee of P&D that handles the allocation of space, was thought to be the committee handling the current issue.) John DeCastro mentioned that any large classroom that the university had should always be upgraded rather than closed down.

With much discussion the motion was made by George Rainbolt to present the following issue to CBSAC who is currently involved in such matters.

“Given the predicted increase in new freshman and the tight budget situation, all rooms currently being used for large classes (including 220 Urban Life) should be used for large classes next year.”

The motion was passed.

Peggy Gallagher ended the discussion reminding the committee that the bigger issue at hand was not 220UL, but having more space to hold bigger classrooms.
Harvey Shumpert briefly reported on MRRF. He said the budget funds have been reduced from $54 million to $30 million. This means that apx. $1.5 million will be allocated to GSU. He mentioned that Katherine Johnston has created a priority list that looks at criteria such as, the age of the system in question, what a particular building(s) is used for, the phases & time spans used to complete the project, etc. Harvey said that he would try to send a completed report to CBSAC and P&D before the next meeting on 3/17/02.

The meeting then adjourned at apx. 2:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Lydia K. Woltz
Administrative Coordinator