Planning & Development Committee Meeting
May 21, 2002

Present: Tim Crimmins, Martin Fraser, Peggy Gallagher, Christine Gallant, Katherine Johnston, Steven Kaminshine, Charles Louis, George Rainbolt, Phang Tai, Carol Winkler, Julia Young


Others Attending: Leslie Williams

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Approval of the 4/16/02 Minutes
2. Discussion and Approval of Traffic Safety Subcommittee Report (attached)
3. Subcommittee on Classrooms & Offices
4. Other Issues

Phang Tai brought the meeting to order; no changes were made to the 4/16/02 minutes. The minutes were approved.

Tai opened discussion on the 2nd item of the agenda and explained that the subcommittee on Traffic Safety headed by Bonnie Fritz implemented the formation of a Task Force chaired by Katherine Johnston.

Steve Kaminshine spoke in the absence of Bonnie Fritz. He began by explaining why the Task Force within the Traffic Subcommittee was created, “... the subcommittee has handed this off to a Task Force that will obviously have considerable overlap with its composition. The thought was that the charge was really in an implementation & execution phase, in accordance with the recommendation; so it needed a stature other than the subcommittee to see it through and really depended almost on expertise outside of the subcommittee to execute and see it through.”

He explained that the 1 paged document titled, Charge to Task Force on Traffic Safety - Senate P&D Traffic Safety Subcommittee - DRAFT 5/7/02, was really the essence of what the subcommittee had been working on to have a meaningful set of parameters within which the Task Force could operate with within its current time line. “You can see obviously the bulk of the early stages of the time line really are oriented toward the impact of the Aderhold opening & ways in which that can be done in a way consistent with traffic safety. Then, obviously as you go down the page, you see longer term objectives that may be more challenging and implicate larger issues once you move away from locations around the Aderhold Building, but a time line is going to be important. I think the more controversial things really picked up in post September 1, and would obviously implicate money, resources, the cooperation of Atlanta, security, and things that the Task Force (with Katherine as Chair) will be coordinating.

Katherine Johnston - “The Task Force has been organized, but we haven’t met yet. We’re hopeful for a major allocation for the Decatur Street project. The catch is that there’s a 20% match required from us.”

She mentioned that traffic calming: the narrowing of lanes, parallel parking, trees, etc. would go a long way in
helping with the traffic problem. She also mentioned that a 4-way red light was in the plans. “The total plan (in 1999 dollars) is 4$-5$ million and I think it will probably come in two stages.”

Chris Gallant asked whether narrowing streets from 4 to 2 lanes would be a problem. Katherine said she could not guarantee it wouldn’t be, but that we had a lot of partners in the project with us, including the Central Atlanta Project and the Downtown Improvement District.

Tim Crimmins suggested that the Task Force have a study of pedestrian patterns done some time toward the mid/end of the Fall semester. “My sense is that there are maybe 4 - 5 high traffic areas where people are crossing streets. Some type of survey should be taken to verify what those patterns are. Then when we begin to think about where we’re going to be putting are resources, we’ll be putting them relative to the high volume movement of students, faculty, & staff.” Katherine Johnston said she’d be glad to ask that question to (especially) police officers who would be directing traffic. She also mentioned that she wasn’t very optimistic about the bike path crossing Woodruff Park.

Tim Crimmins mentioned that he watched how students crossed certain streets and used Peachtree Central Avenue in front of Kell Hall as an example. He explained that when delivery trucks were in front of the building, people would step out into the street to peek around the trucks to see if they could cross. He mentioned that if vehicles were prevented from parking in that space, pedestrians would at least have a clear view of what was coming down the Street. “Part of the problem is that we don’t know what pedestrian patterns are.”

George Rainbolt & Steve Kaminshine asked Katherine Johnston to expand on her concerns of a path through Woodruff Park. She said she thought that there may be people who would think it was a bad idea, because a walking path wasn’t what the park was designed for. George Rainbolt said he was worried about mud trails resulting from pedestrians coming to & from GSU.

Phang Tai mentioned that the issue of mud trails was an immediate action concern of the new Task Force.

George Rainbolt made a motion to approve the 2 documents entitled Charge to Task Force on Traffic Safety - Senate P&D Traffic Safety Subcommittee - DRAFT 5/7/02 and Traffic Safety Subcommittee Report - May 7, 2002. The motion was seconded and approved.

Phang Tai reported that things were moving FAST. “The immediate action got approved within 2 months and the whole report is actually 7 months ahead of time.” He thanked the committee for a good job & moved on to the next issue “Subcommittee on Classrooms & Offices.” He let the committee members know that Carol Winkler had replaced Bob Sattlemeyer as chair over the Classrooms subcommittee. He then opened up discussion on the shortage of space saying that with next year’s budget cut of 5.86% and the increase in needed faculty, the matter was becoming increasingly urgent.
Tim Crimmins questioned the goal of the classroom committee. **Carol Winkler:** “My standpoint is there’s a short-term and a long-term problem. So as I see it, we’ll probably be doing something similar to that of the Traffic Safety committee. **Katherine Johnston** suggested Mark Walson, the University Real Estate Officer, as a good person to consult.

**Katherine Johnston** spoke on the cost of space saying that it’s apx. 25$-26$ per sq. ft. for the Aderhold Bldg., which was twice the amount of 10 Park Place and three times the amount of 1 Park Place. She also mentioned that currently there was a 3 million sq. ft. surplus in Midtown and that the Federal Reserve Office would also be moving out.

**Tim Crimmins** - “I think it’s important to keep in mind the guiding principle that the HOK study identified when it looked at all the university’s space needs 5 or 6 years ago. What the university has done over the years, is cannibalize hanging-out-space for offices; and the hanging-out-space is what we are most deficient in. With the kind of crisis for faculty offices we’re looking at in the Fall, there will be a tendency to grab odd rooms here & there, and turn them into office space. What we need to keep in mind, is that once you lose that space, getting it back is quite difficult. So if the budget permitted something that would rent office space somewhere near campus, it could serve as a preferable way of establishing new space as opposed to cannibalizing odd spaces around campus.”

**Carol Winkler** asked if there was a University wide understanding of how short the university was on office space. **Tim Crimmins** responded, “What the HOK study did was look at the space shortage problem department by department to itemize it; and when you put it all together, the problem is monumental.”

**Peggy Gallagher** asked whether the study applied to 1999. **Tim Crimmins** responded, “No, it was an existing condition with some estimate of where growth would be; and the growth has far outstroked all the estimates it had been given.

**Steve Kaminshine** questioned, “Are there secondary consequences to the shortage that might also make for a loud case, in addition to the primary consequences; that people probably don’t have anywhere to go? I’m wondering whether departments find themselves restrained (to some extent) to hire the fullest extent of what they need to cover credit hours because of the lack of office space and whether that is generating teaching overloads on existing faculty and whether it produces a productivity issue. **IS THE SPACE SHORTAGE AFFECTING THE LACK OF HIRING?**”

**Carol Winkler** - “My census is telling me new faculty are being wedged in. So they stop coming in because it’s too ridiculous to try. She mentioned that a photographer was here from the Regents to take pictures of how bad it was.

**George Rainbolt** - “I think hiring is almost entirely driven on enrollment data, then when the people arrive, we find what we can.”

**C. Winkler, G. Rainbolt & T. Crimmins** discussed the lack of teaching support for faculty and teaching assistants. **George Rainbolt** discussed what was referred to in his department as the Bull Pen. “In the Bull Pen, 9 teachers are serving 3,000 students from one room. Now we have to hire 12 more faculty, so we’re going to have to divide desks into Tuesday/Thursday desks or Monday/Wed./Friday desks.

**Phang Tai** suggested getting statistical data from the registrar’s office to aid in the problem.

**George Rainbolt** asked about the new hold on the budget by the Governor’s office. **Katherine Johnston** said the new hold placed on the budget was 1/4% per year, but if the economy got better, the hold may be cut.
The meeting adjourned at exactly 1:43pm

Respectfully Submitted

Lydia K. Woltz
Administrative Coordinator