Planning & Development Committee
Organization Meeting - November 21, 2006

Present: Elizabeth Beck, Greg Brack, Cathy Brack, Douglas Covey, Tim Crimmins, William M. Downs, Christine Gallant, Sandra Garber, Carol Grantham, Casey Long, Harold (Hal) McAlister, George Rainbolt, Roy Sobelson, Phang C. Tai, Ellen Taylor,


Attending: Beth Jones, Connie Sampson

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes 8-28-06

2. Subcommittee Reports
   a) Campus Safety (Beth Jones)
   b) ADA/504 Subcommittee (Christine Gallant)

   ***AS OF 12/13/06 NAME CHANGED TO***
   “THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAMPUS ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED”

3. 2007 Action Plan Draft (FYI Only)

4. Other Issues

Agenda Item #1 - Minutes - Phang Tai called the meeting to order at apx.1:03pm. The group motioned in and approved the minutes.

The meeting then moved on to the 2nd item on the agenda - Campus Safety

Perception of Crime
Beth Jones & Connie Sampson gave a presentation on Campus Safety. The presentation covered the current “perception” of an increase in crime, some items put in place help that issue, and future plans within the GSU Police Department.
Crimes Committed
Connie began the discussion by announcing that robberies had been low in the beginning of the semester. She explained that the goal of the department was prevention 1st, but if that failed, the next step was capturing the suspects. She mentioned that some cases were reported directly to their offices, while others were reported to/through other jurisdictions, but that the majority of cases were related to an increase of juvenile crimes due mostly in part to the closing and construction of the 5pts Peachtree area.

GSU Police Capabilities
Connie explained that the GSU Officers were certified by the State of Georgia and Fulton County and that the GSU Police Department were in the 5% of Nationally and Internationally accredited Police Departments. She mentioned there were currently 79 sworn personnel, 23 non-sworn E.F.T. security guards and a varying number of part-time non-sworn security guards. She explained that the campus was divided into 4 zones: the Braves Parking Area, an East and a West zone, and the Fairlie Poplar zone; she mentioned that 3-4 full time officers patrolled each of those zones during shift hours of 7-3pm, 3-11pm, and 11-7am.

Connie announced that the President had just approved additional funding for 4 more officers. Around campus, officers (on a regular basis) also patrolled the(specifically) the areas of Piedmont/Decatur, Peachtree/Decatur, and the Aderhold area. She mentioned that increased lighting was recently added to several locations around the campus as a deterrent. Beth Jones mentioned that Harvey Shumpert & Levert Holt were currently spotting out areas around campus that needed more lighting and said (if desired) she would provide a proposal for trimming back hedges where needed. Phang Tai praised that the new lighting between the underground areas between Kell Hall and the General Classroom Building was working extremely well.

Competitiveness of GSUPD Salaries
Phang Tai asked about the competitive pay rate among officers. Connie explained the average salary was $30,000 - $33,000 per year and part of that was an increase that came from a recent retiree’s pay that was (after the retirement) split up to allow the increase. She also noted that the training process for each new hire took apx. 8 months and the pay during that process was apx. $23,000. She mentioned that starting in Jan 07' Georgia Tech’s starting salary would be $40,000. Greg Brack questioned whether any officers had left to go to the new city of Sandy Springs. Connie affirmed that 2 officers had left for a starting salary of $45,000 in that city.

Phang Tai asked Connie out of the 79 positions, how many were generally unfilled and could those vacancies help support the needed increase in salaries. Connie replied, “about 5-7 on average.” She mentioned that recently, 1 left for health reasons and that 2 didn’t pass the needed qualifications. Tim Crimmins mentioned noticing money being pulled from officer vacancies for a while, and suggested a budget analysis to see why this was a regular occurrence and able to be done. Greg Brack asked P&D whether they wanted to risk the loss in the number of officers if/when vacancies were not refilled.
Connie explained that good officers were not easy to come by and that the replacement of a needed officer due to the 8-month basic training period was very hard to do. She noted that the training for officers (for understandable reasons) was VERY strenuous and she explained the basics of the training to the group: background & family history, medical & physical exams, pre-employment history, polygrams, psychological exams, drug screenings, firearms training, etc. She explained that training was much, much more than what the public would imagine, and that understandably, “. . . you wouldn’t want just anyone to walk in off the street and be handed that much responsibility” . . . so the supply of good new officers was limited.

**GSU Police Escort Services**
The group discussed the escort services provided. The main complaint about the service was the long waiting period it took for escorts to arrive. Connie explained that the cost of the service was apx. $54,000 ($37,566 for the guard and $16,400 for the van). Because there was only 1 van to service the entire area, this was a problem, but that campus police would always assist when available. Elizabeth Beck noted that the customer service center that handled the calls for the service may need to be more sensitive to the callers; she mentioned that at times she felt her calls were taken more as a nuisance if she had to call more than once to the escort service. She mentioned (however) that the area where she works is a somewhat secluded area and that she had already been assaulted in that area before.

**George Rainbolt & Tim Crimmins** discussed whether the service could be run by students. George mentioned a former institution where he helped run the student escort service, where the escorts would always come and go in groups of 2, and that the service was extremely successful & cost efficient to that institution. Connie mentioned that they had explore this option some time ago, but due to some of the issues dealing liability in such a unique urban setting like GSU the idea never took flight. She mentioned however, this idea was currently being re-discussed and that they was currently an up-coming scheduled meeting with the SGA that would take place in a couple of weeks.

**Tim Crimmins** asked if a small amount of money could be provided to Geography services to map out a “hot spot map” where crime was located. Beth Jones mentioned that she had had this done before via a G.I.S. based system and that it may be possible; Connie mentioned that she would check to see if there was some grant money on hand to provide for the service.

**OTHER CAMPUS SAFETY ISSUES DISCUSSED**

**E. Beck, T. Crimmins, & G. Rainbolt** discussed the identification or assignment of a Chief Security Officer for each campus building. They mentioned that in certain buildings it was clear who you could go to for major concerns (*ex: Phang Tai & Al Baumstark regarding the Science Buildings*); but that in most buildings (*ex: Urban Life*) no one knew who, directly, to go to with such issues.

**Beth Jones** mentioned that CBSAC had looked into swipe cards for each building, but currently they were cost prohibitive.
**Tim Crimmins** asked that the police budget be looked at in terms of turnover due to competitive salaries elsewhere and whether the cost of training at ~$25K to then lose the person to a $45K salary wasn’t worth increasing the minimum pay. Connie mentioned that there was a State law in place that provided for a portion of the training salary to be refunded if the officer left within a certain stated *probationary* period.

**Sandra Garber** reminded the group that, “*more HOUSING would be coming on line next Fall*” and that this increase in student activity would add to the concerns.

**IN TOTAL, THE HIGHLIGHTED CONCERNS WERE:**

- VACANCY/REPLACEMENT COSTS
- LIGHTING
- ESCORTS
- CHIEF BLDG. SECURITY OFFICERS

**Greg Brack** - “These are all good ideas, but the Police are already rushing to stay on top of things as they are. *I think we have to P.R. what we’re doing due to the perception people are already having.* For the 1*st* time, I’m getting calls from parents about safety. Eventually this can cause recruitment & retention issues.”

The group agreed with Greg’s comments, thanked Connie for her presentation, and ended the discussion at apx. 1:56pm.

**THE ADA/504 SUBCOMMITTEE (CHRISTINE GALLANT)**

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Christine lead the discussion by reminding the group that the ADA/504 committee was the Federal Advisory to the Provost and chaired by Susan Easterbrooks. She mentioned that last year reports showed that GSU was not very compliant. The areas complained about were accessibility (including restrooms), handrails, ramps, broken sidewalks, and elevators. *It was mentioned that when Max Cleland visited the campus, problems were noticeable.*

She mentioned in their 1*st* meeting they spoke of the need for a new compliance officer. There was a conflict of interest in duties for the current officer from Development Services. She said the committee thought that that position might be better served by someone from Risk Management & Occupational Safety.

The P&D group discussed the difference in *Compliance vs. Accessibility* with current buildings, future buildings, rental & foundation properties, and in planning for retrofitting newly acquired *older* buildings. The group discussed various ways of budget planning for these issues. Beth Jones mentioned certain funds (as MRRV) could not be used to address ADA matters. Tim Crimmins mentioned that (to much surprise) the recently renovated Andrew Young Policy Studies Bldg. was on the a list for non-compliance. Phang Tai addressed the issue of the problem being assessed via facilities & design and the overseeing project managers before the problems began. Afterwards, the group moved on to the next item on the agenda.
AGENDA ITEM #3
2007 ACTION PLAN DRAFT

Phang Tai began by saying there was still 1 more draft of the plan left. He suggested that any comments/changes be sent to Ron Henry before the next week. He also suggested that the group try to get a hold of the preliminary MRRV list before the next P&D meeting on Dec. 18th. After announcing that the SunTrust Bldg on Park Place in front of Woodruff Park was just acquired through the Foundation Tai asked Beth Jones to make a presentation on this and the other Foundation buildings at the next P&D meeting; Beth agreed.

Tim Crimmins - “We’re about to own 3 large buildings owned by the foundation. We need to have a way to figure out foundation money so we can know what they can do, so we’ll know what we can do. We can’t treat the foundation like they’re somebody else. It’s our foundation; people are having serious problems in those buildings that are not being addressed, and departments will soon be moving to those buildings.”

How are their maintenance plans developed? Up & running costs need to be defined.

Sandra Garber - “It has to stay at an arms-length, but we do have to create some sort of relation.

Beth Jones suggested, and the group agreed, to invite Nancy Peterman to the next meeting to talk about the issues. These last issues ended the meeting and Phang Tai adjourned the group at apx. 2:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lydia K. Wolitz, Admin. Coordinator