
Campus Planning and Finance Council

Minutes of 4 February 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Campus Planning and Finance Council was called to order at 3:07 p.m. on 4 February 2025 via Webex video conferencing by LuMarie Guth, chair.

Members Present: Cheryl Bauman-Bruey, Shonda Buchanan, David Dakin, Kim Ganzevoort, LuMarie Guth, Lynne Heasley, Luke Kritzman, Valerian Kwigizile, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Colleen Scarff, Jan Van Der Kley

Members Absent: Todd Barkman, Mohammad Daneshvar Kakhki, Jessyca Olvera

Advisory Members Present: Tony Proudfoot, Jeff Spoelstra

Advisory Members Absent: Christopher Cheatham

Ex Officio Member Present: Osama Abudayyeh

Guests: Anantha Sankey, Manager Capital Renewal/Planning, Facilities Management; Sara VanderVeen, Senior Director of Planning, Design and Construction, Facilities Management; Steven Bertman, Professor, School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability

Quorum

A quorum was present with 12 members in attendance, of the 10 needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Bauman-Bruey, seconded by Kwigizile, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

An amendment was made in Dakin's report to expand an abbreviation to the Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education Building.

[MOTION] It was moved by Kwigizile, and seconded by Bauman-Bruey, to approve the 10 December 2024 minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Guest(s) Report

Charge 4: Campus Master Plan and Space Advisory Committee Task Forces – Sankey/VanderVeen/Dakin

Dakin, Sankey, and VanderVeen presented an overview of Master Plan highlights. This presentation was also presented in a recorded public campus session with stakeholders, and the recording will be made available in time. [Slide deck attached](#)

Presentation highlights include:

1. Changes in future campus square footage are goals and should not be taken literally;
2. The plan conceptualizes a campus renewal process over many years and helps all Divisions and Broncos move in the same direction with common guardrails;
3. A major theme is creating vibrant hubs of activity and density around the central core of the main campus;
4. By recalibration of the campus, there will be 23% energy reduction through building demolitions, renewals, and/or renovations;
 - a. Low-cost examples include tighter building envelopes, insulation, and steam trap maintenance;
 - b. High-cost examples include solar, all-electric buildings, and high-performance buildings;

Sankey presented detailed charges and outcomes of each of the 5 Master Plan task forces, including discussion points included;

1. Discussions are needed on Friday classes and classroom load balancing;
2. Members requested centralizing scheduling for conferences, meetings, and study rooms, and that some buildings have priority on faculty meeting rooms;
3. Similar request for preferential priority in library rooms;
4. Instructors, at times, have backup plans or secondary holds;
5. Not all buildings are designed or built to serve as academic classrooms, and these questions are specific to certain buildings;
6. Need to know on campus “where people are”, in disasters and emergencies;
7. Building Coordinators need to be able to see or interact with 25Live, for example, to have buildings unlocked for a reserved event;
8. Graphics include recommendations for new buildings, renewed/renovated buildings, and existing buildings, but should not be taken literally;
 - a. Capital outlay funding can change or accelerate movement on individual projects.
9. Slides conceptualize districts, opportunities, and downtown connections;
10. New information and a recent recording of this presentation will be added to the website and will be considered by the Board in February;
11. A rescheduled public session is in the works.

Further discussion:

1. A cabinet working group is deciding what information will be packaged and presented to presidential candidates and sees the Master Plan as an asset and advantage;
2. Building demolition plans are shaped by rubric, but there are no priorities or timelines at this time;
 - a. The plan guides the WMU Space Committee over many years;
 - b. It is a guidepost to figure out how to commit resources, keeping in mind the long-term direction;
3. There are multiple mechanisms for conflict resolution or discussion;
 - a. The Space Committee reports to Cabinet;
 - b. The plan will be reviewed periodically through campus input processes;
 - c. The plan is based on predicted variables, so if big things change, the Plan will need to change.

Reports of Councils/Committees Standing Committee(s)

Heasley described changes in the Charge 2: Sustainability Committee proposal (attached), highlights include:

1. The task force still views that a committee is most appropriate and timely and fits well with the new Master Plan;
2. Tightened up rationale and goals to provide content-specific expertise and respond to the interests and roles of the CPFC;
3. Connected committee work with three of four CPFC roles as defined by the Faculty Senate;
4. The group believes it could relieve CPFC workload;
5. The group believes it will be a challenge to keep it small, focused, and task-oriented;
6. Group envisions committee reports or work products fitting into CPFC like other presentations;
7. A major motivation is to provide opportunities to ask questions earlier and engage content experts;

Discussion:

Sustainability covers many aspects, a lot of which are not included in the existing charges of this council, so why a subcommittee instead of another council?

1. Worry about multiple groups and overlaps, and important things being missed;
2. Examples falling outside of CPFC include greenhouse gas tracking and Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS);
3. There is broad interest in many aspects and topics;
4. Major parts of WMU's carbon footprint are cars coming to campus, food waste, and solid waste (disposables) that go beyond a building;
5. Response – the group does not see it as either/or, and it would be up to the council to prevent mission creep;
6. Regarding the council;
 - a. There is no Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) (but it is on the cabinet), and both sustainability and DEI are core values;
 - b. The Faculty Senate Executive Board assigned this as a charge and has studied councils;

- c. The experience with the Transportation Committee's dissolution informs the desire to ensure sustainability can stand on its own;
 - d. Can decide later to grow into its own council.
- 7. Students did not know where to go with transportation and building ideas and concerns, and the committee can be a focal point and information pipeline, as our campus is undergoing a lot of change.

Next Steps:

- 1. Need to put together Memorandum of Action (MOA) for formation of subcommittee for Executive Board, then full Faculty Senate – Heasley and Guth volunteer to craft MOA;
- 2. Dakin reminds the group that WMU teams deliver projects on budget;
 - a. Standing committees that interject during projects can be disruptive to the process and budgets;
- 3. Van Der Kley emphasizes that input is always desired and important and that the Faculty Senate is for “council and advice”, not for decision-making on projects;
 - a. The Committee ties in well with CPFC but is reading as “action-oriented”;
 - b. The Committee might get bigger than the CPFC;
 - c. Facilities Management’s capacity is limited and not expanding;
- 4. Ex Officio Abudayyeh agreed to the value of developing policies for the future.

[MOTION] It was moved by Heasley, seconded by Abudayyeh, to develop an MOA incorporating the concerns of members and advance it to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. The motion carried.

New Business

None.

Reports of Officers

Chair Guth did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Van Der Kley reported that the flurry of executive orders will likely have significant ramifications for WMU. WMU is seeking funding to borrow for the new Valley Housing project.

Proudfoot reported that the Undergraduate Studies Council is working on a definition of experience-driven learning. Dakin responded to a concern raised before the meeting about the loss of accessible parking due to the pedestrian mall extension project. Four barrier-free spaces near the administration building will be moved to the other side of the administration building as part of a lot expansion and will also include an improvement of the entrance nearest the new spaces. New spaces will be closer to the elevator in the administration building. Some other spaces are moving to the Sangren lot. WMU has already created more parking spaces at the student center. WMU’s practice is to do more than required by law on projects.

Unfinished Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Heasley, seconded by Abudayyeh, to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Campus Planning and Finance Council will meet next on 18 February 2025 via Webex video conferencing at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Jeff Spoelstra, Secretary

Minutes approved on 18 February 2025.