

ACADEMIC SENATE

Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee

January 21, 2009 meeting

Members in Attendance: Brian Edwards, Lisa Maruca, Joseph Sawasky, Russell Yamazaki, Earnestine Young, Judy Field, Chair

Members Absent with Notice: Joseph Artiss, Sarah Bassett, Veronica Bielat, Matthew Hurrell, Lisa Maruca, Toni Somers

Members Absent: Ravi Dhar, Terrence Allen, Daniel Rappolee, Lothar Spang, Arun Wakade, Derek Wildman

Guest: Jim Sears, Assistant VP Facilities Planning & Management

Jim Sears was asked to report on the response to the memo he sent out to the University regarding actions to be taken to protect University property due to abnormally cold temperatures. He said that the University community cooperated fully and there were no incidents. When temperatures warmed up there were six incidents of broken pipes. He informed us that he has instructed the staff that plows the sidewalks to expand their range to include the city sidewalks and crossings that are adjacent to WSU property. This is being done for safety reasons. The outside contractor for snow removal is only responsible for the flat parking lots and the top floors of the parking structure. He is absorbing a half-million dollar budget reduction in utility costs.

Sears then informed us that he had just finished his second list of proposals for the federal stimulus packet to be submitted to the President's Council. Included in this list was Biomedical Building, finishing the Chemistry building, renovating the building at the Macomb County Community College for our classes, a campus energy conservation plan, an alternative energy demonstration project, an Interdisciplinary Building and renovation of Parking Structure 4. He said the University needs to develop and implement an energy management program as part of their institutional goals to being more energy efficiency. Later this year we will have two silver rated LEED buildings, the new Education Commons on the medical campus and the new engineering building. Perhaps they can provide some benchmarks in how to adapt current buildings to be more energy efficient.

Michael Simmons his Vice-president of Operations has left and Sears has a waiver to fill the position. He said that he has received 168 applications, most with excellent credentials. He said this reflects the lay-offs in the automobile industry.

One of his frustrations is the NIH requirements for buildings to do NIH supported research; the requirements are not designed to be energy saving in fact are the exact opposite.

The question was asked about the impact of online courses and whether they will reduce our energy consumption and wear and tear on classroom equipment. Joe Sawasky informed us that IT Steering Committee approved and WSU has now acquired a room scheduling system which will help the University optimize its classroom scheduling. WSU funded the project using one-time revenue from a spectrum lease arrangement with Sprint telecommunications. The initial plans are just to schedule the use of the general purpose classrooms with the implementation to start this spring. Sawasky went on to say that Blackboard version 9 will be available in May. He then referred us to new modules that appear on the opening screen of Blackboard; one is a student tutorial on how to use Blackboard and the other is on computer security. These tutorials were developed by C&IT, TRC and other cooperating units. The implementation of Wayne Connect (aka Zimbra) is proceeding. Some early C&IT adopters are testing it, the Library is next. The plans are to have everyone adopting the system on Wayne Connect by July. A question was asked about the schedule for the School of Medicine. Once they finalize their decision, the School of Medicine will likely

be one of the last units to be transferred, as they have their own large Microsoft Exchange implementation. Upgrading/replacing our telephone system and voice mail is under review; the availability of funds will be a major consideration.

One aspect of the budget cuts is that Mr. Ken Lee, chief financial officer at the School of Medicine is having a cash flow problem and has decided to bill individual departments an amount of money approximating their indirect cost reserves to pay for technology costs. This is a troubling example of how the budgets cuts are impacting different units.

Next meeting will be February 11.

Meeting adjourned 3:00

As approved by the Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee