

## **Facilities, Support Services, and Technology Committee (FSST)**

### **Annual report for 2022-23**

#### **FSST Committee members:**

Jeffrey Withey, Chair  
Joan Beaudoin  
Paul Dubinsky  
Sujay Dutta  
Jessika Edgar  
Daniel Golodner  
Carol Miller  
Lisa O'Donnell  
Sean Peters  
Bo Shen  
Gina Shreve  
Michael Barnes (left FSST in January)

#### **Liasons:**

Ahmed Ayantayo  
Paul Bishop, AAUP-AFT  
Melissa Crabtree, C&IT  
Rob Davenport, FP&M  
Naida Simon, PC  
Nancy Welter, UPTF  
James Brock, FP&M

FSST met 5 times in 2022-23. Michael Barnes began as chair and presided over the first two meetings in October and November. After he left to become interim chair of his department, Jeffrey Withey took on the role of chair for the remaining 3 meetings.

October meeting: organizational, several topics that could be covered in upcoming meetings were suggested by FSST members, including parking, elevators, C&IT consolidation, custodial services, and construction projects.

November meeting: Rob Davenport, VP for Facilities, Planning and Management, and Ashley Flintoff from FP&M were guests. They presented information about the capital outlay plans, both for FA2024 and the 5 year plan from 2024-28. In these plans, every expense over \$1 million must be reported to the state, WSU reports projects over \$750,000. Request was made to demolish current Law School classroom building and construct a replacement, total cost estimated at \$40 million. If state money is not available, fundraising/bonds may be necessary. Deferred maintenance remains a problem, with an estimated \$700 million total. Some university buildings (out of 111) may need to be sold as space is underutilized. Outside consultant Gordian completed a report on facilities, how to optimize resources and assess sustainability. The current capital outlay plan reports were made available to the committee.

February meeting: Rob Thompson, CIO was a guest and gave a presentation on upgrades to campus access and security. After the shootings at Michigan State, the need for tighter control of building access is apparent. Most WSU doors still use brass keyways, which cannot be controlled remotely and key possession is difficult to control generally. Currently WSU has 10 different electronic access systems that do not work well with each other. The goal is to upgrade to a system that can consolidate and better integrate systems. Could be onecard or phone-based access. It may take 5 years to fully implement. Phase 1, to identify needs and select a design company, is underway and goal is to complete by July. Stakeholders will be asked for needs. Mr. Thompson requested that a member of FSST serve as a representative in this process. Another project mentioned was the emergency text messaging system upgrade, which would extend the alerts to non-WSU students/personnel (such as parents) who request it. The conversion of the phone system to Microsoft has been delayed due to a vendor being bought out by another company. However, it is in process now.

March meeting: Rob Davenport, VP for FP&M, and James Brock, FP&M were guests and gave two presentations. The first was an update on the capital renewal plan. This plan includes \$100 million to address deferred maintenance, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, roofs, doors, furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Timing for regular replacement of these items is now planned. Cost does not include new SoM building. Categories and expenditures include student experience, \$21.6 million, campus beautification, \$4 million, elevators, \$17.2 million, roofs, \$13.3 million, and other categories were also described. Funding will include \$30 million from sales of building(s) or property, \$21.4 million in 2020 bond funds, and phasing in of deferred maintenance from the general fund, from \$5 million in FY2023 increasing to \$15 million by FY2027. Mr. Brock gave a presentation on changes to the operations of FP&M to improve efficiency, cost, and time to completion. In the past requests would be submitted and then nothing would happen for long periods, if ever. Lack of scheduling led to skilled workers having periods in which they were being paid but had no work assigned. Over \$100,000 was spent to implement a new system. There are now time frames for every work order and there is a new hierarchy for FP&M personnel, with campus divided into districts, each having a dedicated planner/scheduler. Most hires are now complete. Currently only 10% of work orders are completed in a reasonable time, goal is 100%. Customer feedback/reviews are now also automated to enable evaluation of project quality after completion.

April meeting: Jon Frederick, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, was a guest. He updated the committee on parking over the past few years. Goal of his division is to break even and be self-sustainable without general fund money. That became a problem during the pandemic as parking demands plummeted and revenue dropped from \$14 million to \$6 million, requiring some general fund money to maintain

operations. Currently revenue is back to ~\$10 million. 5 year planning process is underway. Projects planned include addition of 40 new EV charging stations, with more on the horizon, and \$900,000 for structure 5 maintenance, plus the usual asphalt/concrete repairs and restriping. Current parking equipment is aging out and will need replacement but funds do not allow for this. Parking prices have been stable for 4 years and may need to increase. Committee members pushed back on this a bit, as parking is already high priced. As for transportation, the DART pass has replaced the old campus shuttles and allows all WSU personnel and students to ride SMART and DDOT buses for free and use the MoGo bikes for free.

FSST committee members were engaged in each of these presentations and asked numerous questions. It was encouraging to see Rob Thompson reach out to the chair after attending the FSST meeting, asking for a committee member to advise on the campus security/access project as it is still in the early stages. All of the presenters were very accessible, open about issues in their areas and willing to answer questions. However, there is generally still a lack of engagement/involvement of faculty/staff in early stages of project planning. We are mainly somewhat passive receivers of information and decisions that have already been made. Ideally, FSST would be engaged early in the planning process of major projects, as faculty/staff are on the ground and can bring much insight to the decision-making process.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Withey, FSST Chair