2012-2013 Annual Report of Facilities, Support Services and Technology (FSST) Committee

May 8, 2013

Committee members: Whittum-Hudson, Avrutsky, Bray, George, Kumasi, MacArthur, Madigan, Matthew, Morrow, Rappolee, Reddy, Saydain, Withey, with liaisons MacArthur (Policy Committee), Golodner (AAUP/AFT), Sawasky (Administration), Kondapi (Student Senate)

The FSST Committee of the Academic Senate met six times from October 2012-April 2013 in addition to being invited to join the Budget Committee in a larger meeting with VP Rick Nork and colleagues from FPM in January. Key topics covered in one or more meetings included:

- Parking issues ranging from facility repairs, costs, real time estimates of space availability (Tim Michael and Jon Frederick)

- Facilities Management Planning and Pricing mechanisms (Rick Nork, Jim Sears)

- University insurance coverage for fire, flood and power outages (Jim Sears)

- C&IT changes/plans with updates

- Renovations in State Hall for new classrooms (4th floor) – Dean Yee and colleagues

While the committee met with key players regarding each of the above topics, what became a bottom line issue is whether faculty and staff consultation was included in the respective planning processes. It should be noted that the instances of broad-based consultation between the administrative arms and faculty/staff before implementations led to the most well-rounded, cost-effective and undergraduate education-focused innovations. *Many issues with the extent of consultation appeared to develop because the administration responded to recommendations from consultant groups before faculty knew of the latter recommendations.*

In October, FSST formed a plan for the year's topics and guests to be invited. Mr. Sawasky, the administration liaison as Assoc VP and CIO (C&IT), gave an overview of computing changes and additions made over the preceding months. C&IT has reorganized desktop computing support for select administrative divisions, consolidating services for Finance and Business Operations, the Provost's administrative departments, Marketing and Communications, and the 4th floor of FAB. Travel Wayne, Wayne Buy and a consolidated Active Directory service for desktop management and shared file space were implemented. The former two are still being tweaked with faculty/staff feedback. Additional computer rack space has been added in Computer Science to increase disaster protection and recovery for key enterprise systems like Blackboard, Banner and Pipeline. Numerous smaller implementations are detailed in the October 18, 2012 minutes.

In November, Mr. Nork and colleagues from FP&M attended to discuss insurance coverages for power outages, floods and other calamities including thefts. There is a Risk Management Overview available regarding processes. Theft of unsecured computers or laptops is not covered. Capital Outlay Priorities for 2013 were discussed at length with Mr. Nork in terms of their relation to the 2020 Master Plan. These priorities had already been presented to the State before our meeting, and before vetting by BOG (planned for December). The Nov. 2011 plan was modified for the January 9, 2013 Senate meeting of the Budget and FSST committees. There was extensive discussion at the latter meeting about the lack of consultation with faculty regarding priorities for our undergraduate education needs.

Parking innovations, renovations and pricing were the topic of December. The committee received updates of the May 2012 Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) 5 year plan, effective Dec. 1. Divergences from

the Parking Task Force recommendations and current PTS plan were discussed at length, in particular the need to protect students from increased charges. Annual parking analyses of the Walker parking consultant group have been initiated. We received copies of the first report (appendix 1 and 2, since these were not submitted with the minutes for the December meeting).

In February the committee discussed the issue of costs of repairs, renovations, and moving of equipment between buildings. Mr. Avrutsky agreed to draft a memo to be sent to Rick Nork with cc's to OVPR (VP Ratner) and to the President. The lack of faculty input into decision making and inaccurate estimates for services were among the concerns. The memo is appended to the February minutes. JW-H also summarized the major points from the combined meeting of Budget and FSST with Rick Nork and colleagues about capital outlay plans. The disconnect between some of the projects planned and projected student enrollments over the next several years was of concern to Senate committee members.

In March, the committee met in State Hall in the newly renovated/reconfigured classrooms on the fourth floor. Dean Yee gave a presentation to describe the genesis of the process with many focus groups giving input into needs for space. We then had a tour of all the space, before open houses were offered in the following weeks. The committee was quite enthused about the forward thinking of the space design.

The April meeting allowed Mr. Nork, Sears and Pecic to attend to clarify the issues raised in the Committee-Avrutsky memo. Mr. Sears presented the data and explanations of how pricing for services of design, repairs/renovations are derived. See April minutes for pdf of the presentation. The group answered many questions from the committee, and there are clear plans to make the process of bids, commitments and cost-effectiveness more transparent in the future. More input from faculty in these processes will be facilitated. Modifications in choices of preferred vendors from the State lists will be implemented, to find the best value for services, perhaps using the model of WayneBuy arrangements. Mr. Sears has a presentation on Key Performance Indicators which he would like to present to FSST, perhaps in the fall (we recommend that members of the Research Committee be invited for this, unless the Senate President thinks it would be of value for the entire Senate).

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Whittum-Hudson
Chair, FSST Committee