

**Wayne State University Academic Senate
Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee
Proceedings from the Wednesday January 26, 2022 via Zoom**

Present: Elizabeth Drake, Erica Edwards, Jane Fitzgibbon, Daniel Golodner, Lisa O'Donnell, Mary Paquette-Abt, Avraham Raz, Jennifer Stockdill, Jeffrey Withey

Absent: Faisal Almurfarrej, Paul Beavers, Melissa Crabtree, Paul Dubinsky, Brian Edwards, Nasrin Nesha, Michael Samson

Guest: Robert Davenport

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 via ZOOM.
2. The Proceedings from December 8, 2021 were approved.
3. Robert Davenport VP for Facilities was the guest for the meeting.

The committee provided brief introductions, and identifications of areas people were located and will be teaching.

We were told that as of January 26th, facilities had 24 open positions. The impact of not being able to fill these requires no explanation. Groundskeeping has been particularly hard hit, so much so that snow removal has been outsourced for this winter. Amazon and other warehouse companies, the city, and other such organizations are offering premiums and we have found it almost impossible to fill openings. Some organizations and fast-food companies are offering bonuses that we cannot match.

Mr. Davenport discussed the phenomena called the great resignation. Its impact on Generation X and Baby Boomers, that will all want services but because of the lack of people they will not be available.

One of the contributing factors is the number of retirements that over the past two years that has helped create the openings. Particularly 10 people that had over 30 plus years each.

One of the steps that WSU was planning to introduce was to pay a \$500 bonus for new hires and referrals. However, this is no guarantee that the problem will be resolved.

We were advised that due to the chronic shortages of staff, especially in custodial areas that they are going to adopt a team approach to buildings. He cautioned, that this will be depended on union approval. Buildings will be segmented as districts, but some building will have designated custodians. *(At the time of the meeting he was not able to provide which areas that this will impact).*

We were assured that trash collection is a priority.

The committee as about buildings that had particle contaminants. Manoogian is a major problem on the fifth floor. A PowerPoint had been sent that showed the damage that had taken place of the past six months. We were assured that this will be investigated. *See attached*)

Mr. Davenport explained that they had done an investigation in Scott Hall with cameras scoping the duct work.

Specific Building Issues.

- Time was spent on discussing trash removal and or placement of trash and bins.
- Jeff Withey (BMI) told the meeting that his office in Scott Hall had not been cleaned since the start of Covid-19. As far as he was able to tell there is no mechanism on how to get it done.
- Jennifer Stockdill (CHM) explained that some students are putting lab trash in the hallway, which is getting mixed with other trash.
- Second was the issue of vacuuming. Nonexistent or faculty are sinking there own in to clean their offices.
- Mr. Davenport said that he and Steven Gilsdorf will go over to the Chemistry Build to see the issues firsthand.
- Mary Paquette-Abt made the observation that for Fall 2021, Old Main appeared cleaner. Maybe because of the lack of people in the building.

The committee made a number of suggestions such as internships and co-ops but most are not feasible because of the positions are union and Facilities are using internships where possible. Mr. Davenport noted that they have internship openings that they have not be able to fill.

Elevators

The group highlighted continuing issues.

- Scott Hall
- Old Main
- Applebaum
- Engineering Building

We were advised that the elevators (four) in Scott Hall are completed and ready. However, the City of Detroit has withheld the certification of two of them because they do not have a light when they are running under generator power. This not code but the inspector wants this modification.

Old Main still waiting for components.

Applebaum engineering study for modernization in process. Estimate that it will take 9-12 months to complete the upgrades. Covid-19 has made getting materials so much harder.

Engineering is a repair that they are waiting on mechanical parts.

Mr. Davenport discussed that with the return to campus of all teaching it will provide the opportunity to really investigate the building and office space utilization. As noted in the prior Master Plan ([Campus Master Plan - Wayne State University](#)) there are a number of buildings and offices that are both in poor condition and underutilized. This included classrooms, libraries and administrative offices. He also noted that we know that lab requirements need to be addressed.

He did assure us that any issues we find with the return will be dealt with. If we become aware we have contact him directly.

4. The committee held a round table discussion on the security change that was implemented in December. The consensus is that this has made it more difficult for faculty as MS Outlook is not as user-friendly as Apple's calendar and mail functions. In addition, the committee wanted to censure the IT department for picking Exam Week to make the change.
5. For the February 23 meeting
 - a. Ashley Flintoff will be back to discuss teaching elements of State Hall.
 - b. Garrett McManaway will be with us to discuss Security