

Draft Meeting Minutes
Governance Steering Council
November 27, 2012

Present: Dan Gerlowski, Amirah Muhammad, Giordana Segneri, Margarita (Magui) Cardona, Chris Spencer, Debra Stanley

Absent: Mohammed (Shiraz) Ahmed

Guest: Robin Gunkel

The meeting started at approximately 12:30 pm.

1. Agenda was approved as amended.
2. The minutes from November 6, 2012 were unanimously approved.
3. University Committee Membership: The roster of appointees to the GSC committees was approved. It was determined that the committees should report directly to the GSC in future meetings.
 - ➔ **Action item: The GSC president will communicate to the committees the mission of each of the committees as specified in the governance document and will urge them to begin meeting, develop a “report out” schedule, get set up on the GSC website where they can begin posting the agenda and minutes of their meetings.**
 - ➔ **Action item: GSC needs to include terms for Committee members in the bylaws that are being developed.**
4. Discussion/recap of Town Hall regarding Space Planning: GSC members attended the Town Hall in lieu of the scheduled GSC meeting. The town hall was very informative. Members of the GSC questioned the need for additional student space given the existence of the Student Center; however, it was noted that the Student Center is largely used by clubs and the “need” is for more general, non-club associated space for students.

The current plan for the building should be considered “short-term” because it will be used as surge space while other buildings are being renovated. For example, the library will move into the space during renovations, but will move back to the Langsdale building once those renovations are completed.

➔ **Action item: The GSC president will draft a note to the President of UB commending him for his open approach to this process and, now that the GSC is functioning, urge him to consider including the GSC in future planning processes. We would also like to have a better idea of the time-line for the decisions involved.**

5. SGA Report:
 - Students are concerned about the computer hours in the labs, need more hours.
 - ➔ **Action item: GSC president will send note to the UB President about the concern, copying Dave Bobart and Sheila Burkhalter.**
 - The SGA representatives also noted that they have been hearing complaints about the lack of on-site food service. The GSC urged the students to refine the problem, perhaps by doing a survey of students.

- It was noted by several GSC members that what we are really missing is a common gathering area for faculty, staff and students.
6. Staff Senate Report:
 - Next meeting: Monday, December 10th, guest speaker will be Mary Maher.
 - Met on 11/12: Steve Cassard spoke and gave a preview of Town Hall on space planning. He emphasized the desire for feedback on the proposed uses of the old law school.
 - New business: Staff senate still needs a constitution.
 - HR will organize a committee to nominate staff for the USM Regents Awards. Dan Nagle and Magui Cardona will be Staff Senatmembers of this committee.
 - CUSS wants to increase presence on campus, will do a communication campaign.
 7. Faculty Senate Report:
 - Next meeting: Wednesday, December 5th.
 - UFS approved its new constitution and it is in the process of being ratified by the individual College Senates.
 - The Registrar is coming to the next meeting to discuss progress on the e-catalog and will also give update on the degree audit process.
 - UFS received copies of the writing and math studies which examine the status of entering students. The UFS will need to examine these studies and provide feedback.
 8. UB 21 Steering Committee Report:
 - In the process of developing a plan to work within the "Access and Excellence" framework to provide students with the necessary tools to achieve success at UB. One goal of UB21 is to do research on how other institutions blend the access and excellence mission. Brian Etheridge and Dan Gerlowski are the representative faculty members on the committee. It was noted that the new Writing director, John Goshert, and new CAS Dean, Laura Bryan, are also working on these issues. Main question to be explored is: What are the other models that work and how do we build a curriculum to take students from where they enter to the end of their program. It was noted that although we have an access mission, we also have a moral obligation to students to bring them up to level needed to graduate. The UB21 Learning Committee received a report on student progress in UB's math program.
 - Grants approved, criteria: replicable and scalable model
 9. President's University Budget Task Force: Final report is coming pursuant to charge of group. One new, big idea is call for UB to consider fiscal sustainability in its planning. One implication of such an approach is to consider the likelihood of student success and retention in our financial aid and institutional scholarship decisions.
 10. By-laws: to be discussed at our next meeting.

Next meeting: December 11th, 12:30-2, LAP 103.