

# **Finance and Facilities Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **November 29, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Warrington, and the minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting of September 13, 2007, were approved.

Vice President Poppell presented information to support a proposed Board of Trustees resolution approving the borrowing by the University of Florida Foundation of a principal amount not to exceed \$15,450,000 and requesting the Board of Governors to approve the issuance of such debt. The loan will be on behalf the University of Florida to construct an administrative office building on the East Campus of the University. After discussion regarding the interest rate applicable to the 30 year loan, the committee requested that the resolution be modified to state the loan will bear interest in the amount specified in the loan term sheet. The committee voted to approve the resolution as modified.

The amended Operating Budget for 2007-08 was approved by the committee as presented.

The committee next approved a request to rename Building 473 (Heat Plant II) the Lacy Rabon Chilled Water Plant.

Agenda discussion items were then brought before the committee.

The Quarterly Financial Reports as of September 30, 2007, were reviewed by the committee.

The committee was informed that this past Monday the University submitted a response to the Auditor General for the preliminary findings of the Operational Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. The final audit report was issued by the Auditor General yesterday, November 29th.

The committee was updated on the University's progress preparing the Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. All deadlines for submittal to the Auditor General have been met and the audited statements are expected to be issued by January 31, 2008.

An update of the Capital Improvement Plan and the Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant was then presented to the committee. Assistant Vice President Carol Walker briefed the committee on the status of several construction projects currently underway. Both the Nanoscale Research Facility and Pugh Hall are nearing completion, and occupancy should occur early next year.

The committee was provided with information regarding proposed increases to local student credit hour fees for the academic year 2008-09. These proposed increases were made by University committees comprised of students and faculty/staff. The Educational Policy and Strategy Committee will review them, and the full Board of Trustees will vote on the increases at today's meeting.

Vice President Robell presented background information regarding the potential for a columbarium at the University. A columbarium provides a location on campus for the perpetual storage of the ashes of alumni or friends of the University. Several universities nationwide have implemented columbaria and it is anticipated that a number of alumni would be interested in such an opportunity. A possible location would be in the Medicinal Gardens next to Lake Alice. The committee felt the concept was a good idea and inquired as to the cost to participants. Mr. Robell said that would be market driven but would be in the range of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per niche.

A presentation on Housing and Residence Education (Housing) facilities was provided to the committee by Norb Dunkel, Director of this auxiliary. Housing has 7,569 undergraduate students living in 40 separate residence halls. Approximately 1,700 graduate students and families and 300 children reside in five Graduate and Family Housing villages.

Housing spends approximately \$3.75 million per year on capital enhancement projects. Facilities are regularly updated, sprinkled, enhanced and refurbished. Two residence halls each summer receive this treatment.

Mr. Dunkel also provided information on the resident faculty in residence halls which began seven years ago. There are now five faculty members living in residence halls to provide tutoring and counseling to students. The program has been shown to improve the GPA of students, increase graduation and retention rates, and improve respect for faculty.

The committee asked about Housing's Greek House management program. Mr. Dunkel reported that one fraternity is currently participating and that the program is working well. Housing intends to offer the program to other Greek houses as desired.

Mr. Frank Phillips of Facilities Planning and Construction then gave the committee a presentation on the University's space analysis. Space formulas have been developed by the state Department of Education to compute the need for space in E&G, IFAS, and Health Science Center operations. The formula has many components taking into consideration student FTE's, student disciplines, library holdings, the number of faculty, and staff, as well as other variables.

The current space analysis of the University was shared with the committee, and there was discussion regarding the existing shortfall of teaching lab space and how the new Chemistry building would help to alleviate this deficit.

Two University employees were then presented for recognition by the committee: Mr. Danny Grant, supervisor of the Plumbing Shop of the Physical Plant Division; and Mr. Fred Batie, director of University Mail Services.