MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
University of Connecticut
Rome Commons Ballroom
Storrs, Connecticut
February 3, 2015

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Richard Carbray, Michael Daniels (via telephone), Andrea Dennis-Lavigne (via telephone), Marilda Gandara (via telephone), Rebecca Lobo (via telephone), Donny Marshall (via telephone), and Thomas Ritter (via telephone)


UNIVERSITY SENATE MEMBER PRESENT: Elizabeth Jockusch

Committee Chairman Thomas Ritter convened the meeting of the Buildings, Grounds and Environment (BGE) Committee at 10:31 a.m. in the Lewis B. Rome Commons Ballroom on the University of Connecticut campus in Storrs, Connecticut.

Mr. Ritter asked for a motion and a second to add agenda Item #2, from the Construction Management Oversight Committee agenda, Revised Capital Project Delivery Process Manual for Finance & Budget Division, to the BGE agenda for review. On a motion by Trustee Ritter and seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne the item was added to the agenda. On a motion by Trustee Ritter and seconded by Trustee Carbray the item was reviewed and recommended to the full Board for approval.

On a motion by Chairman Ritter, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, agenda Item #4, Minutes of the Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee meeting of December 4, 2014 were approved, as circulated.

Scott Jordan, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, and Richard Orr, General Counsel, updated the committee on the acquisition of the Nathan Hale Inn.

Thomas Callahan, Associate Vice President for Infrastructure Planning and Strategic Project Management, provided the committee with an update on the UConn/Connecticut Water Company interconnection project.
Thomas Trutter, UConn Health, Associate Vice President for Campus Planning, Design and Construction, provided a brief overview and update in the form of a PowerPoint presentation on the BioScience Connecticut projects. He stated that over 3,300 total workers through November 2014 have come through the site with over 1.3 million hours worked. Approximately 82% of all contracts awarded have been to Connecticut companies and projected awards to minority/women/disadvantaged businesses are at 22.5% exceeding the required 6.25% by 16%. He noted that veteran hiring is at 2% on the Hospital Tower project which is anticipated to increase to 3% shortly. He presented several photos emphasizing the dramatic transformation of the Health Center. The OCIP program continues to trend below Connecticut averages for lost time rates. He provided updates on the OCIP program including construction safety risk improvements and noted that a second “safety summit” with Turner Construction including Turners’ National Safety team was held January 7. Mr. Trutter provided updates on the Health Center construction program.

Laura Cruickshank, University Master Planner and Chief Architect, provided a brief update of the Storrs based construction and renovation projects that are part of the Next Generation Connecticut program. Beverly Wood, Director of University Planning, presented the final draft of the Campus Master Plan. The Plan was vetted with the faculty, staff and students as well as the Town of Mansfield. A presentation will be made to the Board of Trustees on February 25, 2015. The Master Plan documents are available online. The key Master Plan documents include the Executive Summary, the Campus Master Plan and design guidelines. The plan runs through 2035.

Trustee Daniels inquired about funding for a new Student Health Services facility. Ms. Cruickshank responded that there is no funding currently earmarked for the project. Mr. Ritter inquired how issues with the Plan are resolved. Issues are addressed and resolved by working with PAES and the Master Plan Advisory committee and resolutions are posted on the Master Plan website. Issues that the Town has with the Plan come through the Town Council to the University. Their main concern has been location of the hockey arena which has been addressed by listing more than one potential location for the facility. An official University response will be completed by the Executive Committee and the University President.

Trustee Dennis-LaVigne inquired if departments, schools and colleges have indicated that the plan does not meet their space needs. Ms. Cruickshank responded that when her team is made aware of dissatisfaction or areas that feel their space needs were not being addressed, she and Ms. Wood meet with Deans and Department Heads. A Master Plan looks at a very high level of need; therefore, a Space Planning Study is also undertaken to address space needs. The Academic Plan is also a major driver of the Master Plan. A high level Space Needs Assessment was completed addressing space shortages and the Master Plan will address the appropriate development capacity to meet those needs. Ms. Cruickshank’s team will continue to work with departments to review existing space and newly built space in order to systematically chip away at space needs.

Senate Representative Jockusch inquired what the anticipated space deficit will be at the end of the funded building programs; and how much of that is student resident space and academic space. Ms. Wood responded that the NextGenCT program is expected to add
approximately 1 million square feet of space including two residence halls, plus 2,000 structured parking spaces with the balance tied to enrollment growth. The next wave of detailed planning occurs in five years. Pathways toward those projects have been identified and will continue to evolve as the next phases of NextGenCT develop. Ms. Cruickshank added that there is a square footage per student calculation which is tied to the operating budget. Two residence halls are funded in NextGenCT which will accommodate a number of new students. The ability to accommodate space is very much tied to the operating budget. If there are any additional questions Ms. Cruickshank recommended that they be emailed to herself and Ms. Wood.

On a motion by Chairman Ritter and seconded by Trustee Carbray the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie L. Carone
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Secretary to the Committee