

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Physical Environment Committee

Wednesday 9 March 2016

Lubar S185

8.30-10 a.m.

Minutes

**Present:** Duce, Fitzenberger, Fredlund, Genzmer, Heathcote, Huddleston, Kennedy, Nelson, Smith, Stoner, Sorensen; *ex officio* Hurtado, Schmidt, Van Harpen

**Absent:** Florsheim, Lundeen, Tabatabai, Wallick, Wiseman, Young, Zafra; *ex officio* Surerus

- I. Call to order. Meeting was called to order at 8.30a.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
  - a. Approval of Agenda. The agenda was approved as submitted.
  - b. Approval of Minutes of 20 January 2016. The minutes were approved as submitted.
- III. Unfinished Business
  - a. Questions from January 2016 PEC meeting. Questions and discussion from the last few
    - i. *Legality of ISS Charges to Parking and Transit.* Robin Van Harpen provided background for the ISS charges to P&T explaining that the GPR funding received by the campus is limited as “restricted funds” meaning that it may only be used for designated costs (e.g., such as utilities, debt service, fringe benefits). In the past, a small amount of GPR funding was left over after paying these restricted costs; that “leftover” funding is no longer available due to budget cuts. With GPR spent fully on restricted services, tuition and other revenues are used for paying for campus operations. The source of the tuition dollars that are used for operational costs, comes in the form of indirect charges (a.k.a a tax) on academic units. These funds are then used for a variety of purposes including operational costs. Our budget models estimate that the tax varies between 20-40% with a 40% tax rate representing the estimated amount using the new budget model. Auxiliaries are a smaller picture of the same thing. They constitute a significant amount of overall revenues, and with shrinking GPR funds, the administration concluded that the auxiliaries would also need to share in the campus’s budget cuts by contributing more to operational costs. In a review of campuses across the country, research showed that UWM was charging at the lower end of the range being applied to auxiliary units. That lower rate was based on the “leftover” GPR noted above. Van Harpen believes that the tax of 15% to auxiliary units is fair, and noted that it is less than that applied to academic units (20-40%). UW System was consulted on this methodology and it our practice is consistent with their recommendation. Joely Urdan addressed concerns regarding the legality of taking funds from Parking and Transit in light of State Stats. 36.11 (8) (b). She explained that the language of the statute needs to be read broadly, specifically regarding the use of funds “for the purpose of developing and operating parking or other transportation facilities.” She believes

that “developing and operating” permits P&T money to be used to support P&T operations (e.g., levying and collecting fines, parking enforcement etc.). It is also consistent with a long standing UW System policy to allow the use of auxiliary funds for operational needs.

*Stats 36.11 8 (b)...The institutions are authorized to collect such fines together with moneys collected from the sale of parking permits and other fees established under par. a, to be used for the purpose of developing and operating parking or other transportation facilities, or campus safety or transportation-related programs, at the institution at which collected or for enforcing parking rules under par. a ...*

- b. History of Parking and Transit Reserve Use. Geoff Hurtado presented documents concerning the use of P&T funds (attachments to agenda). Hurtado summarized by saying that based on available documentation, in 2000-01 the budget approved by Board of Regents allocated \$800K from Parking reserves to pay for OASIS (one time); in 2003-05 there was a withdrawal of \$983K to fund scholarships (e.g., Lawton scholarship). These two items, totaling \$1.8m of reserve funds, were the only two items found going back to 2000. A question was asked whether the use of PT funds in this manner is consistent with legal charges to parking fund. Hurtado answered that it is assumed to be legal but added that safeguarding the reserves is almost impossible due to accounting methods of the state (the state looks at total reserves without noting special earmarks for future projects). A suggestion was made that the parking reserve be tracked in a way that would allow tracing the use of these funds more closely. Fredlund stated that the subcommittee is charged with monitoring parking costs and the use of the reserve funds and that it must bring anomalies to the full PEC. Further concern was expressed regarding the upward creep of the auxiliary “tax” amount (noted in III. a. above) and the possibility of related increases in parking rates. Prasana stated that that current parking rates are at their peak and that generating revenue by increasing parking rates is not the answer. He noted that UWM has one of the highest rates for parking on par with UW-Madison. Instead, he supports the improvement of efficiency through use of new technology and alternatives to parking on campus.
  - c. Questions from December 2015 PEC meeting on Classrooms. Emily Heinz & Kevin Jahnke presented information on whiteboards vs chalkboards in classrooms used for Physics classes and on using the ROAR program to request classrooms with specific features. The removal of chalkboards and their replacement with whiteboards has been addressed/corrected and now the classrooms in question (see Minutes of January 2016) have both wall sized white boards and chalkboards. In addition, Bolton, EMS, and Chemistry have basic media being installed which means existing media remains while other options are added. Heinz reminded the committee that special media needs could be identified in ROAR when requesting classrooms.
- IV. New Business
- a. Greenfield Avenue Gateway Project. Presentation by Jim Wasley, Architecture, of the plans for the Greenfield Avenue Gateway Project near the School of Freshwater Sciences. The presentation is available at:  
<https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/faculty/standing/pec/minutes/15-16/index.cfm>

V. Reports

- a. Smoking Policy. LeRoy Stoner turned to Ryan Sorensen of the Student Association to report on the SA motion passed on 6 March that would make UWM a tobacco free campus. Discussion took place whether e-cigarettes (vaping) were included in the ban. The assumption is that it is included; Stoner reminded the committee that any action regarding a smoke free campus would be reviewed and refined to be very precise. Once the motion from the SA comes to the PEC, the committee can work with Robin Van Harpen on developing a final policy.
- b. Campus Space Committee. Geoff Hurtado reported that the committee recently approved 4 requests for minor space in NWQ. Also, some consolidation is planned for the scattered University Relations departments (those in Mitchell, Sabin, and Cunningham Halls) which will be taking over the north side of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the old Physics building.
- c. Transportation Subcommittee – Glen Fredlund confirmed that P&T budget shows very little change to fees for parking for next year.
- d. Nelson Nygaard Campus Transportation and Parking Study Items Moving Forward. Prasana Nanda reported that the Nygaard study had many recommendations, some are already implemented and some are future activities. Important to note is the consolidation of local transit for the campus (housing shuttles and park and ride) are now open to everyone starting in fall (use UWM id for eligibility to ride). The Park and Ride bus is expanding and will go to the campus, Cambridge, and Riverview; monitors will be in some of the buildings on campus showing the ETA of buses which will be called the Prowl Line. Parking now has tiered pricing; in the future increases will not be across the board, rather they will be done selectively based on demand.

VI. Announcements/Other. None.

VII. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.