

UFFAB Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 3rd, 2014
303 GSB Large Conference Room

Members Present: Jenna Muniz, ULC, Chair
Lexi Evans, Warner College of Natural Resources, Vice Chair
Ashley Cypress, College of Health and Human Sciences
Michelle Staros, College of VMBS
Amber Weimer, College of Natural Sciences
Matt Fergen, College of Business
Lance Oles, College of Agricultural Sciences
Alex Brown, College of Engineering

Members Not Present: Jeff Cook, Graduate School
Matt Lancto, College of Liberal Arts

Members at Large Present: Sam Guinn, ASCSU Representative

Members at Large Not Present:

Associate Members Present: Vicky Weber, Graduate School

Associate Members Not Present: Robert Edwards, College of Natural Sciences

Ex – Officio Members Present: Steve Hultin, Faculty Advisor
Becca Wren, Staff Support
Lindsay Brown, Staff Support
Andrew Olson, SFRB Liaison
Kristi Buffington, Facilities Management
Tamla Blunt, Ex-Officio Member

Visitors: President Tony Frank
Dean Jan Nerger – College of Natural Sciences
Dr. Mike Antolin – College of Natural Sciences
Dean Mark Stetter – CVMBS
Daniel Hemphill - SFRB
Sam Laffey - College of Liberal Arts

- I. Call to Order at 5:00 PM**
 - a. Jenna called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 27th, 2014

- a. Jenna made a motion to approve the minutes from March 27th, 2014.
- b. Michelle seconded.
- c. Motion approved.

III. Discussion of Biology Building with President Frank and Dean Nerger

- a. President Frank opened the discussion by recapping his previous conversation to the Board.
- b. Looking at the broader picture of improvements at the University, a great deal of work has been completed. However, there is still work to be done, particularly in the Biology department and Warner College of Natural Resources.
- c. President Frank stated that ideally, he would choose to improve those two areas before any others.
- d. He added that he believes if residential education will continue to thrive, it is because the facilities are attuned to new ideas and new technology. Part of the CSU package for prospective students is dependent upon having the best facilities and the best instructors. President Frank believes the new Biology building will have both of these components.
- e. President Frank also mentioned that the level of state funding for higher education for both controlled and deferred maintenance issues is very low, as compared to other states. He hopes to see the state engage further.
- f. Overall, President Frank noted that the University has made significant progress on the engagement of donors and establishment of endowments. The Scott Bioengineering building is a prime example of donor participation.
- g. Dr. Frank believes that any level of support from UFFAB to the Biology building will encourage donors to add momentum to the funding process.
- h. Now is the best time to fund this project, according to President Frank. The Chemistry building has been on and off the state capital construction list for several years. Even if the Chemistry project stalls out, there are still options for the Biology project.
- i. There is an option for timing, if the board passes the fee increase. Dr. Frank gave an example of an approved parking fee going into effect later than originally thought, to give people a chance to recover after the economic downturn of 2008. A similar pause could be implemented on the fee increase to give the state more time to fund the Chemistry project.
- j. President Frank complemented the Board on the process of investigating this fee increase. He also stressed the critical importance of the fee increase decision and asked for questions from Board members.
- k. Jenna commented that some students have told her they are unsupportive of the fee increase given that they will have graduated and left the University before the Biology building is complete, even though their facility fee went towards the funding of it. Her question is – Is it possible for this fee, when it goes into effect, to only be put on the first year students and slowly build to the next round of freshmen, to only put the fee burden on students who would be using the building.
 - i. Dr. Frank answered that this tactic can be used with tuition but he is unsure if this is allowed in student fees. CSU has never done this because it is very difficult to define when students transition from year to year. Dr. Frank does not think this is a possibility.
- l. Dean Nerger noted that the Biology project is very unique in that it will serve many colleges in different capacities. CVMBS can use the space in A/Z for the biomedical science program. The building will be very much student-focused, as a hub for all students on campus.
- m. Dr. Antolin, head of the Biology department, added that this particular UFFAB meeting was meant to be held in the only meeting room in A/Z but it was reserved for a student group. This shows the lack of space within the building.
- m. The Biology building will also benefit students of any college needing to take an introductory Biology course. The college of Natural Sciences provides over half of all of the core classes at CSU.
- n. Dean Nerger mentioned her goal of eliminating wait lists in her college, and the Biology project will help accomplish this. The building will allow for more students and faculty, creating more course sections.
- o. The Biology department already holds classes until 11:00 pm and is considering Saturday classes, because their space is at max capacity.

- p. Amber added that she likes her classes within the College of Natural Sciences but would like to see more specialized, upper-division biology courses. She also said she is excited about the prospect of more advising space.
 - i. Dean Nerger said that the new building will allow for more specialized courses. She agreed that there is a need for more focused advising and the new building will help the advising process.
- q. Jenna asked Dean Stetter from CVMBS to explain his college's perspective of this new building.
 - i. Dean Stetter said he strongly supports the project because it will help other areas as well.
 - ii. He said that CVMBS has frequently denied strong students access in the college due to lack of space and resources. Getting the additional space in A/Z will help CVMBS dramatically.
- r. Jenna then asked Dean Stetter to clarify which programs would be moving into A/Z.
 - i. He answered that the new Neuroscience program, as well as EHS and Physiology will be moving into A/Z, if the process goes through. Some of A/Z will need to be remodeled to accommodate these programs but that will be less expensive than building a new structure.
- s. Lexi asked Dean Stetter if the college had an established budget for these remodels or if CVMBS is thinking of asking UFFAB for remodeling funds.
 - i. President Frank answered that no, CVMBS will seek other funding sources for the cost of remodeling. UFFAB will not be asked for another funding opportunity to fund the A/Z remodels.
- t. Alex asked what would happen if the Board chose to reject the fee increase totally.
 - i. President Frank answered that the project would have to go back to the drawing board to accurately determine its next steps.
 - ii. He also noted that if rejected, the Biology building will not submit another funding request to UFFAB next year. He thinks the Board will need about 4-5 years of breathing room before revisiting a rejected project.
- u. Lexi stated that she understands the need for the building, however, she has a problem with the burden the increased fee will put on students. She then asked for more information about CNS fundraising.
 - i. Dean Nerger explained that the college intends on launching a large-scale fundraising campaign but realistically, she anticipates \$5-8 million from donor funds. She does not want to overpromise her ability to fundraise.
 - ii. Tamla added that in the case of the Scott building, more donor funding came through based on the college disciplines, not on the efforts of the college. There might not be a very wealthy CNS donor, like in the case of Scott or WCNR.
 - iii. President Frank also commented that there is a new process for donors to consider, like getting naming rights to a conference room. This new process may entice new donors.
- v. Jenna asked for clarification on what programs will move into the new building vs. what will move into Yates.
 - i. Lower level BZ and LIFE courses will stay in Yates and all upper level biology courses will move into the new building.
- w. Jenna then asked what will happen to the Stock Pavilion, which will be demolished to make way for the new building.
 - i. President Frank said that the stock pavilion is not used, except for 4H and FFA events, which can be relocated to the Equine Center.
- x. Steve explained that the \$81.6 million project cost does include a basic furniture allowance but not advanced lab equipment.

- y. He also mentioned that the project stands alone from the Chemistry project- Chemistry does not need to be funded by the state for Biology to receive funding from UFFAB.
- z. Daniel Hemphill from SFRB asked if the funding methods used for the RIC project on the Foothills Campus is transferable to the Biology project.
 - i. President Frank answered that the RIC project set up a model of leasing space to 3rd parties to fund the building.
 - ii. This method was not as successful as planned and would probably fail in application to the Biology project.
- aa. Daniel then asked if corporate sponsors have been contacted.
 - i. Dean Nerger said yes, corporate sponsors like HP will be included in the campaign.
- bb. Dean Nerger also pointed out that other buildings such as BSB or the library will be less congested with students studying with more study space in Biology.
- cc. There were no more questions from the Board. President Frank, Dean Nerger, Dr. Antolin, and Dean Stetter left the room

IV. Board discussion of Fee Increase

- a. The guest from the College of Liberal Arts, Sam Laffey, stated that his college council has discussed the fee increase at length and none of the constituents are in favor the increase. The increase is too steep and will cause too much stress on students, in their perspective.
- b. Michelle commented that the Board will be tied up in bond debt for a long time with the fee increase, which will limit the availability of funding for cash-funded project.
- c. Lexi reminded the Board that it is possible to fund only the Warner auditorium with the \$0.25 fee increase.
- d. The final vote on the fee increase will be taken next meeting, April 10th.
- e. Jenna and Andrew suggested that the entire Board attend the presentation to SFRB on **April 15th at 4:30 pm in the Rec Center Upper Conference Room**. UTFAB presented their fee increase and their presentation went very well, with many UTFAB members present.

V. Adjourn – 6:02 pm

VI. Next meeting April 17th, 2014.