

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Senate Committee on Campus Operations
Annual Report for 2012-2013
(Final; Information)

The Senate Committee on Campus Operations (CO) held five committee meetings during the 2012-2013 academic year (October 22, November 19, December 17, February 18, and April 1); details of the Committee's discussions may be found in the minutes from those meetings. Two CO members (Gaskins and Johnson) served on the search committee for the new Executive Director of Facilities & Services (F&S), and the entire committee was invited to meet with the four finalists for the position. The following is a summary of the most significant issues tackled by the Committee this year.

- **Interactions between F&S and units.** As part of the Committee's continuing "On Location" series, we invited unit executive officers and facilities managers from three units (School of Chemical Sciences, Physics, and University Library) to discuss their experiences working with F&S. These were fruitful conversations that especially helped inform the Committee's work on the timeliness of renovations.
- **Timeliness of renovations.** Following extensive discussions with F&S, the Committee forwarded two resolutions (CO.13.01 and CO.13.02) to the Senate on December 3, 2012. The first described a set of five changes to campus policy that would help expedite renovations, and the second described a set of five proposed changes to state procurement code that would help expedite renovations. The two resolutions passed, and were forwarded to the Chancellor (CO.13.01) and the President (CO.13.02). The Committee remains in contact with administrative officials to monitor the progress on these items. Reggie Alston, the Chancellor's liaison to the Senate, has reported that most of the items in CO.13.01 have either been completed or are in progress. Kappy Laing, in the Office of Governmental Relations, reported that the items in CO.13.02 made their way into pension reform legislation but were not passed by both houses of the legislature. CO will continue to monitor progress in 2013-2014.
- **Sustainability.** Pradeep Khanna, Acting Director of the Office of Sustainability (which has subsequently been merged into the Center for a Sustainable Environment) discussed many of the activities of his office, especially the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP). Our student body has been very vocal about sustainability issues, but the faculty has not been as active. The Committee forwarded a resolution (CO.13.03) to the Senate on March 4, 2013 which formally endorsed iCAP and called for a significant investment of resources to pursue the iCAP goals; this resolution passed. The Committee also suggested finding ways to actively engage faculty in sustainability projects being pursued by F&S; these discussions led to the formation of a new program of Sustainability Fellows which began in the spring. The Committee discussed the idea of enlisting a grass-roots effort of "unit sustainability advocates," and this will be pursued in the 2013-2014 academic year in concert with the new Center for a Sustainable Environment. The Committee also received updates from Jack Dempsey and Kent Reifsteck about the new

solar farm and other projects underway to conserve energy, produce renewable energy, and reduce the carbon footprint of the campus. Finally, the Committee recommended that its *Bylaws* be expanded to explicitly include sustainability as part of its charge, and to add the Director of the Center for a Sustainable Environment and the Chair of the Student Sustainability Committee as *ex officio* members. This recommendation was forwarded by the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (SP.13.07) and was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2013.

- **Public safety.** The Committee heard from Deputy Chief of Police Skip Frost about the state of the department. Concern was expressed about the lack of security cameras in parking garages, in light of recent incidents there.
- **Parking.** Michelle Winters, Director of Parking, presented an overview of the finances and challenges of Parking. A major topic of discussion was the capped fee structure, which limits the revenue of the unit and is difficult to alter because of collective bargaining agreements. The finances of the unit are somewhat difficult to assess due to major upcoming expenditures for maintenance, and the Committee expects to further discuss this in the 2013-2014 year. Winters assured the Committee that Parking is working with F&S to install security cameras in garages but it will take some time. There was also some discussion of the use of Parking funds to subsidize alternative (and more sustainable) modes of transportation to campus, as well as the iCAP goal of assessing greenhouse gas emission fees for parking.
- **Smoke-free campus.** Michele Guerra described the plans for making our campus smoke-free; McCall served on the “Facilities, Grounds, and Properties” subcommittee of the group working on the details of the implementation of the smoke-free plan.
- **Campus bicycle plan.** Morgan Johnston presented a draft of the new campus bicycle plan, which is a long-term planning document that is predicated on the availability of substantial funds for an overhaul of the campus bicycle infrastructure. As a first step, F&S repainted existing bike lanes and added some signage this year. The Committee plans to further examine funding streams for implementing this plan.

Committee on Campus Operations

Ben McCall, Chair
Monica Bielski Boris
Dion Broughton
Sandra Carroll
Rex Gaskins
Tom Johnson
Nancy O’Brien
Luke Olson
Christopher Rao
Naveen Vuppuluri
William Worn
Jack Dempsey, *ex officio*
Maxine Sandretto, *ex officio*