The University Resources Policy Committee (URPC) held seven regular meetings during the 2013-2014 academic year. This report is a chronological summary highlighting the business conducted by the URPC during this period.

2013-2014 URPC Members
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September, 2013

- The committee was welcomed and organized. The mission of the committee was reviewed.
- Carol Shelby, Director of Environmental Health and Public Safety, reviewed Purdue’s campus safety facilities and procedures, including Purdue’s fire department, police department, parking, and safety regulatory compliance. Specifically, she discussed existing integrated safety strategies and procedures that allow Purdue’s campus safety units to collaborate with each other and interact with local fire, police, and safety units.

October, 2013

- Bob Olson, Senior Director of the Energy and Engineering, and Dan Schuster, Senior Energy and Strategy Risk Analyst, updated the committee on Purdue’s energy needs. Specifically, they talked about the transition from coal boilers at the Wade Power plant to natural gas boilers. They discussed the metering of buildings, and attempts to establish the basis for more energy savings on campus. They discussed Purdue’s chilled water needs.
Michael Gulich, Director of University Sustainability, and John Collier, Director of Campus Planning, discussed Purdue's efforts to develop a Bicycle Master Plan and increase pedestrian-bicycle-vehicle safety on campus. Gulich discussed the initiatives already in the works for developing a more comprehensive master plan for bicycle traffic on and around campus. Collier went through the existing efforts to paint bike baths, create “sharios” (shared paths for vehicles and bicycles). He also discussed future plans as Purdue takes control of State Street and aspects of Northwestern. He discussed changes that could be made to existing routes and better bike rack placement to increase safety.

November, 2013

Dale Whittaker, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, reviewed resources needs involved with the “Fostering and Assessing Student Growth: A Purdue University Commitment.” Primarily, he discussed the major elements of the plan, which is a broad-based assessment of Purdue undergraduates that involves assessment tools such as the CLA+, a Gallup poll of Purdue alumni, and the Passport e-portfolio system.

Catherine Watt, Associate Dean for Distance Learning reviewed the online course programs offered by Purdue. She went over some of the initiatives the Extended Campus is pursuing with online course offerings.

December, 2013

Beth McCuskey, Associate Vice President of Housing and Food Services, reviewed the recent moves by Purdue’s Housing and Food Services to build and renovate dorms as well as change food policies to make meal plans cheaper for students. In a few different ways, she reported, the administration has asked Housing and Food Services to find ways to make everything less expensive so those savings could be passed on to students. Specifically, she talked about the food plans. Purdue has always been known for its excellent food in the dorms; however, the costs have been higher than average. By making some strategic changes, the prices could be brought down. McCuskey also talked about strategies for bringing more students back to campus living. Convincing more students to live on campus rather than off campus is one of President Daniels’ goals. She also talked about Purdue’s attempts to consolidate food services to bring down costs. Food services, she explained, may have become too decentralized.

February, 2013

Gerry McCartney, Vice President for Information Technology, discussed the recent report from the Operational Oversight Committee (OOC) regarding information technology. He discussed his division’s goal of setting a common baseline for faculty computer needs, so IT can be more efficient through consistent levels of service and replace/repair procedures. He also mentioned that they are developing policies to manage Purdue equipment that is being used or taken off campus.
March, 2013

• Carol Shelby, Director of Environmental Health and Public Safety, returned to discuss the campus shooting incident that happened in early February. She mentioned that she felt the campus responded properly and that the feedback has been positive. She did admit that they got “lucky” because of the limited nature of the crime. The perpetrator gave himself up immediately. However, the incident showed the limitations of the university’s technologies for informing people what to do. Security terminology, such as “shelter in place” was cited as an example of terminology that was obscure. She mentioned that security training is available through the Purdue Police.

• John Collier, Director of Campus Planning, returned to discuss development of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Master Plan, which is being developed by consultants. He discussed new types of bike paths and methods for separating pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. He discussed covered parking options for bicycles. He also went over the State Street Master Plan, which is being used to plan from River Road to the western edge of campus.

April 2013

• Ken Sandel reviewed the 10-Year Capital Plan, which had been developed by the Capital Coordinating Committee in coordination with the deans from all colleges. The presentation, “Capital Improvement Budget Request,” reviewed the history of state funding, illustrating how state appropriations have fallen considerably short of the university’s needs for capital maintenance and improvement. Sandel also demonstrate how improvements to energy facilities are being funded through savings from energy efficiency due to the Campus Energy Master Plan (CEMP). He speculated that similar kinds of savings could support capital projects in the future. He then reviewed priority projects that are projected for state support. These projects include 1. Agriculture and Life Sciences Facility, 2. Vet Complex Relocation, 3. Interdisciplinary Research Facility, 4. North Campus Classroom Facility, 5. Library/Classroom (Hicks), 6. Life Sciences Testing and Research, 7. Heavilon Hall Replacement, and 9. BSL-3. He discussed the short- and long-term funding possibilities for these projects, all of which look promising with support from the state legislature. He also discussed Renovation and Restoration (R&R) priorities, which are now projected to cost $30 million, while state funding is only $7 million.

2014-2015 URPC: Professor Michael Fosmire, Libraries, was elected Committee Chair

Submitted May 16, 2014 by,

Richard Johnson-Sheehan, Chair of URPC
Purdue University Senate