

University Senate
October 16, 2008

Members Present

Members present at the meeting: 94

Call to Order

The Senate Chair Holum called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m. He gave an update on his health and relayed that he was on his way to a full recovery. He also thanked Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks, Executive Secretary & Director Montfort and Parliamentarian Breslow for helping during his absence.

Approval of the Minutes

Senate Chair Holum asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 15, 2008 meeting. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as distributed.

Report of the Chair

Senate Chair Holum explained that the implementation of the Strategic Plan is the primary focus this year. Task forces are at work implementing parts of the Strategic Plan including the Post-Tenure Review Task Force chaired by Adele Berlin. The General Education Task Force has not been fully identified but will start work as soon as the membership is complete. The Blue-Ribbon Library Task Force is chaired by James Yorke and is at work. The Senate will receive reports from all of these task forces. Senate standing committees will also work on implementing aspects of the Strategic Plan. For example, the Educational Affairs Committee will review the types of awards available for graduate assistants; the APAS Committee will review the 30-credit rule; the Faculty Affairs Committee will review the process of post-tenure review in units and review the techniques by which merit pay is distributed.

Chair Holum also noted that the Student Conduct Committee's annual report recommended against a Medical Amnesty Policy. He indicated that the Senate was provided with the Student Conduct Committee's report in their materials for today's meeting. Chair Holum stated that this issue would not be discussed at today's Senate meeting because the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) plans to discuss it further before it comes to the full Senate.

Senator Almon, Emeriti, requested a clarification of what the medical amnesty policy was.

Chair Holum responded that this is a policy that has been adopted by some universities and is one in which students are given medical amnesty from criminal prosecution if they develop health concerns from the use of illegal drugs or underage alcohol misuse.

Senator Docherty, Undergraduate, Robert H. Smith School of Business, asked whether Dr. Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs, could give an update on the issue.

Clement reported that a complete report from her office was filed with the Senate Office highlighting all of the actions taken in response to the recommendations. She also noted that she had checked with all modes of disciplinary bodies to ensure that they are implementing educational sanctions and progressive discipline. Her office has also implemented some additional alcohol interventions with the Health Center and worked on educational programs on alcohol misuse. She further stated that the Alcohol Coalition's work supports her office's actions.

Chair Holum stated that we are not ready to discuss the issue in the Senate.

Report of the Senate Executive Committee

Senate Chair Holum reported that Ann Wylie, Assistant President & Chief of Staff, brought forward a concern regarding the membership of the Research Council. She stated that the Graduate School had lost representation on the Research Council due to the separation of the Graduate School and Research. Chair Holum stated that the SEC had approved adding a representative from the Graduate School to the Council. He stated that with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice President for Research, the SEC recommends that an amendment to the membership of the Research Council be adopted. Holum called for a vote, the result was 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and majority approved. **The motion to approve the amendment passed.**

Approval of Research Council Slate 2008-2009 (Action)

Senate Chair Holum announced the slate of new members to the University Research Council which was submitted by the Committee on Committees. He asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, he called for a vote of the Senate. The result was 0 No, 1 abstention, and the majority Yes. **The motion to approve the Research Council slate as submitted passed.**

Report of the University Library Council (ULC) (Information)

Senate Chair Holum stated that he wanted to bring the report of the University Library Council (ULC) to the Senate. He stated that the report suggests that there is a "crisis" in the materials budget of the Libraries. He believes that this affects faculty and students and that we cannot be a world-class institution without supporting our Libraries appropriately. He further stated that the Provost has established a Blue-Ribbon Library Task Force to address these concerns. Chair Holum stated that the ULC asked for the Senate to take action by monitoring the work of the Blue-Ribbon Library Task Force and supporting the focus on the crisis on the materials budget. They also asked the Senate to approve a resolution about how scholarly materials are disseminated. This issue will go to the SEC and will be brought to the Senate later in the year. Chair Holum commented on the thoroughness of the ULC's report from last year.

James Klumpp, Chair of the ULC in 2008, added that the last two Provosts have each commented on the inflation of the materials for the Libraries. As library materials become more commercialized, the cost of the subscriptions for the libraries increases. Personal subscriptions stay low, but library subscriptions skyrocket. The resolution asks for some general considerations of the role that the structure of academic publication has on the

resources of the campus in relationship to the Libraries. Many other institutions have passed similar resolutions. Klumpp also thanked the Senate for their support in making his job easier during his tenure.

Chair Holum opened the floor to questions. Hearing none, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

Special Order of the Day

Joel Oppenheimer, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
Douglas Duncan, Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Purple Line Discussion

Holum introduced Doug Duncan, Vice President for Administrative Affairs.

Duncan gave an overview of the concerns raised about the various alignments of the Purple Line and their impact on our research efforts. He stated that the Campus re-accessed the alignments and took the Stadium Drive alignment off the table and went to either the Campus Drive or Preinkert Drive alignments. The State is looking at both alignments. The Campus has also hired consultants to study the impact of Electro-magnetic Interference (EMI) and vibration along both alignments. The consultants will give a presentation on their findings on Monday, October 20, 2008 at 4pm. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has been accommodating by looking at both alignments. Duncan announced the MTA's website purplelinemd.com shows the environmental impact statement draft. There will be four public hearings on the Purple Line and the next one is scheduled for 11/19/08 at Ritchie Coliseum. He stated that the Campus will develop a response to the MTA's environmental impact statement with our consultants. He further stated that the Campus' primary concern was with the impact of EMI and vibrations on our existing research programs. The MTA has resolved a lot of our safety concerns. They went to a plaza concept design in collaboration with the School of Architecture. Duncan stated that the trains will be slow and stop at crossings and stop signs. There will be a 90 day hearing/comment period, and then the State will choose which alignment and then start the federal funding process. There has been a lot of discussion of whether there is actually money for the Purple Line, but regardless, the alignment must work for the University. Duncan thanked them for their cooperation.

Duncan introduced Joel Oppenheimer, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)

Oppenheimer thanked the Senate, Doug Duncan, and Ann Wylie for working with the MTA. He stated that working together has resulted in a huge transformation of the project and financing will come as interest in the Purple Line grows. He gave an overview of the Purple Line.

Background Information

The Purple Line will run from Bethesda to New Carrollton in an east-west orientation. There are several alignment alternatives currently being considered.

Ridership estimates are significantly higher than Baltimore's light rail system, and the forecast levels compare well with similar projects in the US.

The Purple Line will reduce travel time in this corridor from 76 minutes to almost 30 minutes.

Design

The MTA has introduced an “Open Pedestrian Plaza” design for the Campus Drive alignment rather than linear transit look. This alignment will require the restriction of traffic between the “M” and Union Lane. The Preinkert Drive / Chapel Drive Alignment involves concerns about potential visual and historic impacts.

Impact on the University

The Environmental Impact Statement will be available on 10/17/08 and there will be a 90 day period for comments (web, email, letter), public meetings (written/oral/private oral testimony). There will also be four public hearings that have been scheduled for November with one on 11/19/08 in Ritchie Coliseum. Elected officials will get five minutes to speak and the public will get three minutes to speak at each hearing.

The MTA and the University are conducting studies on the EMI and vibrations impact for each alignment. They will then evaluate potential mitigation of any impact.

The MTA and the University have also put together a working group of the stakeholders such as professors, administrators, and MTA representatives to discuss the issues.

The MTA and the University are studying the effects of EMI and vibrations for both alignments. The University has retained consultants to identify sensitive resources and measure existing conditions. The MTA and the University agreed on methodology jointly. The results of the studies are due out shortly. MTA and University consultants will work together to study potential impacts to research labs and suggest mitigation.

Comparison of Alignments

The MTA did an evaluation of Campus Drive vs. Preinkert Drive and discovered that the station would be more centrally located on the Campus Drive alignment. They also conducted a Traffic Study which revealed 25,000 pedestrians crossing Campus Drive and 15,000 pedestrians crossing Preinkert Drive daily. The proposed light rail will run on average 1 train every 6 minutes. The cost comparison of each alignment was \$44M for Campus Drive vs. \$50M for Preinkert Drive.

Oppenheimer showed several video renderings of the plaza approach down the Campus Drive alignment.

Senator Schumacher, Faculty, School of Architecture inquired if the Preinkert Drive route reduced the amount of traffic on Campus Drive leading to a safer environment? Oppenheimer stated that studies show that reducing traffic on Campus Drive creates a safer pedestrian environment.

Senator Unal, Faculty, Robert H. Smith School of Business, stated that the Purple Line idea is great but believes the options are bad. The Preinkert Drive alignment would impact the aesthetics of the area, and the Campus Drive alignment would put a dagger in the middle of campus. Why haven't you given the option of a tunnel or underground alignment?

Oppenheimer stated that they studied a tunnel approach but it would increase the project by \$150M. The cost effectiveness would go above the limit and the project would not go through.

Senator Schumacher, Architecture, Planning, and Preservation introduced Ann Wylie, Assistant President and Chief of Staff.

Wylie stated that the University of Maryland Master Plan calls for the closing of Campus Drive to all vehicles independent of the Purple Line.

Senator Zlatic, Undergraduate, Arts and Humanities, inquired if the light rail would share the road with vehicles when not on Campus Drive.

Oppenheimer responded that two lanes would be dedicated to the train and two lanes would be dedicated for automobile traffic.

Senator Zlatic, Undergraduate, Arts and Humanities, stated that the Preinkert Drive alignment would cut off undergraduates from the rest of campus.

Oppenheimer pointed out that the Preinkert Drive alignment puts station closer to South Campus than to North Campus.

Duncan stated that the Campus was not concerned about the issue of research buildings being cut off from campus but rather the impact on their research.

Senator Tervalá, Undergraduate, Arts and Humanities, inquired about the effect of noise on the dorms along the Preinkert Drive alignment.

Oppenheimer responded that there would be more bus and train traffic but the majority of the noise would be a result of turns on the tracks. He further stated that the train was not intended to run 24 hours a day and is not expected to be any noisier than the existing environment.

Senate Chair Holum thanked Oppenheimer for his presentation.

New Business

Hearing no further business, Senate Chair Holum adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.