

**2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR-END REPORT OF THE  
UNIVERSITY-WIDE FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

This year the UWFC met five times with an average attendance of ten members. Major tasks in terms of time and energy consumption were:

- University Center Expansion and Renovation
- Energy Conservation
- AEP's Rate Hikes
- UIS research on PC Computers to save energy
- Multi-purpose Athletic Field
- Need for more facilities for Inter-mural Athletic events and recreation
- Founders' Plaza being replaced.

**Discussion**

**University Center Expansion and Renovation .** At every meeting this year, the progress of the UC was brought up. Butch Kotcamp always gave an update report, once bringing the blueprints of the design, once bringing the artist renderings. It was gratifying that this project is on schedule for Phase One completion July 16<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that the new ground water—thermal heating system is working well. The construction has minimized any interference with the normal operation of the existing UC.

**Energy Conservation.** Motivation to conserve energy is coming from multiple sources. The Ohio House Bill 119 mandates that SSU demonstrate a 3% savings in its budget—approximately \$980,000. The Presidents' Climate Commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the impending reduction of state support due to the economy, the AEP proposal to raise rates, and, it is the "right thing to do." So in various forms and ways, the committee has discussed ways SSU can conserve energy; this included an open 'brain-storming' session.

**American Electrical Power's proposed rate hikes.**

At the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, Patric stated that AEP is now in negotiations with the Ohio PUCO for the purpose of raising rates charged to customers. No final decision has been made. Butch Kotcamp provided specificity: AEP is asking to raise the rates over a three-year period. They are asking for 9% for the first year—AND to make that retroactive to January 1, 2009, 8% for the second year, and 9% for the third year. Butch K. indicated that the PUCO was not favorable toward the retroactive request. SSU's current cost for electricity is approximately \$800,000.

800,000  
X .09

72,000 Additional for 2009

872,000

X .08

69,760 Additional for 2010

941,760

X .09

84,758 Additional for 2011

1,026,518 for SSU's annual cost for electricity.

Patric commented that while the UWFC has been focusing on ways to conserve energy for many years, the need is now even more urgent.

**UIS research on PC computers: how to configure in order to save energy.** During the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the subject of saving energy by reducing the consumption of electricity came up. It was decided to invite Chuck Warner to the December meeting to brief us on UIS's efforts to conserve energy. Chuck came to the December meeting and presented a pilot research study that UIS intended to conduct. At the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, Chuck returned and provided the committee with a status report. The research is still in progress—see the April 29<sup>th</sup> minutes—but the results are promising; we could save anywhere from \$14,000 a year upwards to possibly \$30,000 a year by putting PC's in the sleep mode,

**Multi-purpose Athletic Field.** The recently updated Campus Master Plan had suggested putting a multi-purpose athletic field on the north east corner of the campus, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Waller. In order to do this, the existing parking lot would need to be disestablished, and the existing soccer field would need to be converted into a parking lot. An architect was hired and the project went out for bid; but when the bids were opened, the cost was twice as high as planned for. So an alternative plan was developed to leave the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Waller parking lot where it is, and to construct the new multi-purpose athletic field within the boundaries of the existing soccer field. Drawings were provided to committee members, there was a lively discussion, and the committee voted to write a letter of endorsement for the new plan.

**Need for more facilities for Inter-mural athletic events and recreation.**

At the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was brought to the committee's attention that with the growth of SSU's student population and course offerings, the Rhodes Center has run out of both classroom space and gym facilities. A request was made to seek additional space for inter-mural and recreational sporting events. Documents were presented detailing the scheduling of current Rhodes facilities, demonstrating that the main gym was not available to the general student population until after 8:00 PM. No immediate solutions have been identified, but the topic will be on next year's agenda.

**Founders' Plaza being replaced.**

For over five years, the subject of the Founders' Plaza has come up. The Plaza is built upon fill dirt where Gay Street used to continue to Front Street. Over the years the earth under the Plaza has shifted, leaving the concrete pavers uneven, and a tripping hazard. Many efforts have been made to patch these hazards. Now SSU is going to do a major renovation completely rebuilding and expanding the Plaza. It will include the current Gold Tag Parking Lot. An Artist's rendering is displayed currently on the fence adjacent to the plaza.

Important but not time consuming this year were:

- New Public Address System: can be used for both voice announcements and weather warning sirens.
- Relocation of the Planning and Facilities Office from the Business Annex to the West Bay of the Advanced Technology Center.
- One-Stop-Shop for student services—still under discussion.
- Two new residence halls under construction
- One-Card-System to be used for meals, library, photo-copiers, etc. Would be very expensive to implement; still under consideration.
- New additional parking [29 spaces] for faculty and staff in south west corner of campus.

All-in-all, it was a very productive year with several very dedicated committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

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Wm. Patric Leedom, Chair, University-Wide Facilities Committee