

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
Budget/Finance Committee Meeting
January 16, 2007

Regents Present: Bob Storey, chair, Jim Lagerberg, Ben Blair, Maggie Warren, Blanche Parks, Mayor Bill Bunten

Regent Present by Teleconference: Jim Roth

Staff Present: Jerry Farley, Wanda Hill, Al Dickes, Chris Leach, Rhonda Thornburgh, Ron Wasserstein, Denise Ottinger, Tom Ellis, David Monical, Melodie Christal, Richard Martin, Nelda Gaito, Jeannie Robinson, Rick LeJuerne

Student Present: Josh Shald, WSGA President

Guests Present: Greg Schwerdt, Mike Stormer, Nick Roach, Bob Taggart, Marshal McGinnis, Jessie Borjon, Dave Carpenter

Minutes of the December 15, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed.

Athletics Conditioning Facility Options -

- President Farley said for several years discussions have taken place about the dream of having a new Athletics strength and conditioning facility. Upgrades have been done to the current facilities but they are still not desirable when comparing them to other institutions in the conference. Improvement of the strength and conditioning facilities was a major component of the original plan for renovation of Moore Bowl. The training facility project was delayed at that time. Since then, we engaged architects who provided us with options. The options include: building a free standing building at the site of the current Facilities Services buildings; closing the pool in Petro and converting the space; and, renovating Whiting, with the addition of a second floor basketball court and two perimeter floors of classroom and office space.
 - The free-standing building is not recommended due to the high cost of moving the current Facilities Services buildings and the substantial University reserves required to fund it.
 - President Farley reviewed the pros and cons of the other options which were outlined in the agenda material. He noted the additional \$1.5 million necessary to renovate Whiting would be a reasonable use of University reserves. He said Whiting is an historical building we need to take care of, and the renovation of the building would take care of some of the capital maintenance issues with the building.
 - Regent Parks said it is important for a university the size of Washburn to have a pool, and the pool should play a part in the University health and wellness campaign. She said in addition to use by students, the baby boomers are here, meaning the community could also make use of the pool. She asked about donor support for the Whiting option. President Farley said we will need \$2.5 million in fund raising with either option, and we believe we will be able to raise the funds. He said the additional \$1.25 million to renovate Whiting would be taken from University reserves.
 - Regent Roth said he would like to keep the pool, but does not think it gets much use. He asked if the extra space we would get with the Whiting option is actually needed. President Farley said Vice President Hill, Vice President Wasserstein and he have discussed this. The School of Nursing, HPEES, and Allied Health all have a shortage of space for faculty and classrooms in Petro. State funds provided to the School of Nursing will allow for a 25% increase in students from this year to next year. Athletics needs additional space for a training table and team meetings. The additional space gained from the addition to Whiting would be used immediately.
 - Regent Warren asked if we needed to anticipate unknown costs at Whiting. Greg Schwerdt and Mike Stormer, architects from Schwerdt Design Group, said contingency costs had been added in and \$3.7 million is probably reasonably accurate.

- Regent Lagerberg asked if there was any urgency for ADA compliance and replacement of the termite damaged basketball court flooring in Whiting. Mr. Schwerdt indicated any renovation done to Whiting would trigger the need for ADA compliance. Vice President Hill said the Whiting court is in pretty bad shape. President Farley said deferred maintenance issues will need to be addressed in both the pool and the Whiting floor.
- Regent Storey said he came to Washburn because of Whiting. It is a great building but we need to weigh cost vs. need. The need for a conditioning center is there but he is concerned about spending the additional money right now. Regent Roth asked if the space is needed right away. President Farley said space is needed immediately for faculty offices and classrooms in Petro.
- When asked what the coaches think of the two options President Farley said it is unanimous among the coaches that a conditioning facility will benefit all athletic programs. He said the coaches who use Whiting would like for it to be used. The coaches do not take new recruits into Whiting. Coach Schurig prefers the pool option because of the natural light. He is also concerned about possible noise distractions in Whiting. Loren Ferre' agreed with the President's assessment and said the other coaches are happy with either option.
- Regent Blair said the day the pool is taken out there will be a group wanting a new pool put in, and it will be horrendously expensive to build a new one. He said Whiting presents a unique opportunity to revamp a facility that in a few years will have to be revamped anyway. He added if we set a \$3 million fund raising goal it will be met.
- Regent Roth moved to recommend to the Board of Regents to convert Whiting to a conditioning and weight training facility. The motion died for lack of a second. The conditioning facility options will go to the Board of Regents with no recommendation from the committee.
- Mayor Bunten asked for clarification on the voting process. Chairman Storey said all Regents are welcome at the meetings but only committee members are allowed to vote. The committee consists of Regents Lagerberg, Roth, and Storey.

Relocation of Facilities Services Maintenance Building #1 and #2 –

- President Farley said great strides have been made in the last few years to improve the looks of the campus. The metal maintenance buildings are not attractive and moving them to another location has been suggested. Washburn contributors have been discussing this for several years. The original thought was to have the buildings moved to another spot on campus, however, the cost to move the buildings is almost as much as to build an entirely new building. Mr. Schwerdt and Mr. Stormer indicated something could be done with the façade of the current buildings to make them blend in more with the other buildings on campus.
- Regent Warren asked if there was some urgency to do something with the maintenance buildings. Regent Storey said one contributor in particular is pledging funds specifically toward this purpose.
- President Farley asked the committee to give the administration time to look at some options to redo the façade of the current buildings and come back to the committee with more ideas.

Greek Village Project -

- President Farley said the Greek system is an important part of Washburn and some of our most ardent supporters have been a part of the system. To improve housing and ensure a strong system the idea of a Greek Village was devised.
- For the Greek Village to be financially feasible each organization would need to have 26 residents and twice that many members. Fundraising for half the cost would be required of each organization.
- The sororities are happy in their present facilities and are not interested in pursuing the village concept.
- The University has worked with all four fraternities to review the alternatives.
 - The Alpha Deltas have chosen to stay at their location on MacVicar.
 - The Kappa Sigs feel it unlikely they could raise the money required. They are not able to occupy their house on campus.
 - The Phi Deltas have a great attachment to the facility they currently occupy.
 - The Sig Eps are anxious to do something right away.

- Regent Storey said he was a Phi Delt and thinks the Greek system is important. He said there are too many unanswered questions and the committee is not in a position to make a recommendation to the Board.
- Rick LeJuerne, SBDC Director and a Phi Delt, said their board strongly supports a renovation of their current facility. They support the Greek Village concept but want to keep their present facility.
- Bob Taggart said the Phi Deltas had been involved in fundraising projects before the Greek Village concept was raised and they believe they can renovate the house for less than the Greek Village parameters. It has been discussed at length and they have yet to see a reason why they should tear down their current facility instead of renovating it. Something will need to be done by next year to comply with the fire marshal requirements.
- Regent Warren noted we haven't explored having the University manage the fraternity houses.
- Regent Roth said the Greek Village is a good idea, however, it is clear the fraternities don't want it. He said it is not fair to put off what they want to do, while waiting on the University to make a decision.
- Nick Roach said the Sig Eps started things off last year by requesting a spot on campus for a Sig Ep house. They are currently in a 40 year old structure with a 20 year life. They need to do something, either on or off campus, and need to get on with their plans.
- The President said the Greek Village is not something we will continue to pursue. We will work with the Sig Eps to enter into some type of land lease and will have discussions with the Phi Deltas about property management. The Kappa Sigs appear to not be able to maintain a house presence on campus.
- It was noted WEA cannot raise money for entities other than the University.
- The administration will bring more information to the Board at a later date, along with a decision on the Kappa Sig house.

Salary Program for FY 08 –

- President Farley said we are over budget by approximately \$100,000 on sales tax collections so far but we do not feel comfortable increasing the budget.
- The Governor has recommended a 4% increase in the State Operating Grant for Washburn. This will provide \$458,700 additional revenue. The salary recommendation for the state schools is 4%. President Farley said in the past the Governor's recommendation has carried substantial weight with the legislature.
- He said we have been able to move forward with salary increases in the past few years and it is important for us to increase at least at the same level as the state schools. Various options showing tuition and salary increase percentages were included in the Sources and Uses of Funds document that was distributed. A 5.7% increase in tuition (\$185/credit hour) would allow us to allocate 4% to the salary pool.
- President Farley said a decision on tuition is not necessary at this time, however, the administration is looking today for a recommendation to adopt a performance payment salary plan at 4%.
- Regent Roth moved to recommend to the Board of Regents a performance payment salary plan of 4%. Regent Lagerberg seconded it and the motion was carried

Other Issues –

- President Farley said information on the outstanding debt of the University was included in the agenda packet. He noted the University debt is in better shape now than ever. He also noted WEA Capital Project information was included in the agenda packet.

Meeting was adjourned.