9-29-2011

Planning minutes 09/29/2011

Planning Committee

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Planning Committee Meeting
September 29, 2011

Present: Margaret Kuchenreuther, Jim Barbour, Julie Eckerle, Jim Hall, Ken Hodgson, Jane Kill,
            Leslie Meek, Josh Preston, James Rook, Jordan Wente

The minutes from September 15, 2011 were approved.
Welcome and introductions were made as there were new faces to the committee.

Agenda Items
Interim Dean Bart Finzel discussed the 6 year capital plan. Bart reminded everyone to keep in mind that capital funding necessitates that UMM to provide 1/3 of the funding with the other 2/3 coming from the state. There is concern over the timeline. All submissions need to be made by October 17, 2011. The committee was also reminded to pay special attention to articles #2 (what it means for the University's Capital Funds) & #7 (details to meet goals which fulfill the outreach mission finances.)

Upon completion of Bart's overview of the 6 year capital plan, the floor was open for discussion, comments and opinions.

►The first discussion revolved around the green dorm, realizing this project is on a fast track and not necessarily in the capital funding project area. With current enrollment of approx. 1900 students, the current dorms/apartments house approximately 975 students (this is with 4 students in each apartment though recommendations are 2-3 per apt.); Blakely currently houses 72 students. The green dorm originally was designed to house 73 students but will hopefully increase to house as many as 103. Will this be enough room if the enrollment increases in 2013 to 2100 as specified in the strategic planning document?

It was then asked how projects get on the "list." It is this committee that determines and prioritizes the projects. It is also important to keep in mind HEAPR (Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement) dollars are available for maintenance projects. 2011 HEAPR funds have already been scheduled for upgrades to current UMM elevators.

Currently, there are three project areas under consideration:
        1) the Library/Student Center commons area,
        2) Blakely, Education and MRC renovation projects,
        3) Camden and Humanities renovation projects.
The committee was asked to rank these areas and be ready with corroborating remarks. Other questions asked:
        Could the 5 mall building project become one project vs. the current two?
        What would be used for swing space during renovations?
        How long is given to spend monies granted?
        Can we make sure spaces are wired for wireless reception, including new student spaces?

►As our enrollment grows, should handicap accessibility be a higher priority? HEAPR funds were again mentioned as elevators were a purpose for this year's funds. An important consideration is that some major renovations create trigger application of current building codes, which can create a project with a larger scope than originally planned.

►Another project that might be considered is the PE Center. It was built in 1970. This was prior to the *Title 9* ruling. When built, UMM had approximately 200 student athletes utilizing the facility; it now

serves over 450 athletes, instructors and coaches. The building needs updating and renovation. However, there is no pre-design for this project, whereas there are already pre-designs for some other campus projects.

What will the fate of Blakely will be? Does it need to be renovated for housing or can it become classroom/office space? Could it be swing space when renovating other spaces on campus?

Could the mall building projects all be combined into a single project rather than phased?

The committee needs to consider the following:
	Classrooms -- Where would students be taught with enrollment increase?
	Are divisions able to meet the new capacity with current faculty/class offerings etc.?
	Strain on housing capacity

There is also a need for improved HVAC in older buildings (e.g., Humanities and Camden). Faculty often need to use offices during summer months and have no air conditioning. Could the HVAC be added to HEAPR projects or will installation require complete building renovation?

►Discussion resumed focusing on Library/Student Center Commons Area. Some clarification was voiced. This project would be construction of one space encompassing areas for research help, Disability Services (allowing this office to be more accessible,) AAC, peer instructional tech groups, etc. The space would also be wireless allowing growth with evolving technology. Duluth has such an area. It was pitched as a regional resource space, serving both the university and members of the Duluth community.

Where would storage be located for library needs during the interim if this project were recommended? Could a space be built for re-purpose upon completion? (such as an area that could then house transportation?)

► The committee needs to re-visit the following at the next meeting and would like information from Lowell:
	Is it possible to have handicap accessibility for all buildings?
	Could all five mall buildings be lumped together in a single funding request? (Could UMM afford to
		do this?)
	If enrollment does hit 2100 in 2013, how do we handle the numbers?

If the project is 3 mall buildings, classrooms space needs to be addressed. Is there a possibility for expansion of buildings on the side away from the mall?

Next meeting Thursday, Oct 6, 2011 beginning at 3:45 pm in the Prairie Lounge.