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Planning Committee

Campus Governance

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Planning minutes 04/28/2015

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MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

28 April 2015

Present: Jon Anderson, Taylor Barker, Jim Hall, Seung-Ho Joo, Sandy Kill, Jana Koehler, Sarah Mattson, Brook Miller, Lowell Rasmussen, Gwen Rudney; Guest: Robert Thompson (FM)

Chair Jon Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. The first business is to approve minutes that have backed up in queue.

Minutes of the 8 April 2015 meeting were presented. Some amendments were made. M/S Passed to approve the minutes as amended.

Minutes of the 22 April meeting were presented. Some amendments/corrections were made. M/S Passed to approve the minutes as amended.

Minutes of the 23 April meeting were presented. Some amendments/corrections were made. M/S Passed to approve the minutes as amended.

Discussion regarding some meetings' minutes that have not been approved. It was decided to handle these approvals via email.

Clarification of Student Fees increase questions from last meeting: Student Center fee will soon increase and continue through 2027, or so we understood.

Robert Thompson distributes documents for reference. Discussion of the Edson Auditorium remodel.

RT: These documents were put together by Dave Swenson. How to get the Edson Auditorium project done with available funding? How would we sequence the work?

- FY16: Auditorium back wall and lighting. Cost: \$50k for this part. Will come from the entire Student Center allocation and reserves for 3 years.
- Programmatic funds: \$200k from some of our systemic debt monies once the debt is paid off.

LR: FY16 is the last year we will be repaying on our indebtedness. How will we use that \$700k per year?

- \$100K marked for merit aid. Also, if the WELL program is not fully funded, it would require another \$100k. That leaves \$500k.
- \$200k/yr to our Capital Investment program, as recommended by the Planning and Finance Committees.
- So, there would be money available – on a one-time basis – to get the Edson project going in FY16.
- Q: Finance Committee had many ideas as to how the \$700k could be used. Are there any new plans? A: No, other than the approved budget and the tacit blended funding structure that says we are going to commit \$200k/yr to a Capital Investment fund to match HEAPR funding.
- Q: Any plan to use this money to add to the Reserve Fund? A: No. We have not talked about that, but obviously, any remaining funds at the end of the year can go into contingency funds.

RT: The other item here is the Edson Foundation Account that has about \$13,461 remaining. With these funds added to the above, the total is \$323,461.

RT: Break down of the expenses for the project:

- Auditorium back wall and booth: \$224k
- Lighting: \$58,400
- Contingency: \$28k

Q: Why so expensive?

RT: These are predesign estimates, which are usually high. Intent is to remove all paneling from the back wall and put up new acoustical material. There's no structural rework. But this project also includes a new booth and spotlight platforms. There might be a few additional things, such as small scale concrete work on the floor. And the lighting: We did the stage lighting about 3 years ago, at about \$150k to \$200k. That took care of the stage lighting and some controls. What we're doing here for about \$58k is the house lighting, which dates from 1957. The type of lighting recommended is LED. An alternate bid from a few years ago was around \$40k, so this estimate includes cost increases and probably some engineering work. So, these items and the contingency are the project for the first year.

RT: For FY17, with \$4 increase in student fees brings that funding to \$66k. External funding initiatives, such as "Buy a Seat" or crowd sourcing, would be run by External Relations to produce about \$96k. So, this project would be the outside lobby, to create an entrance to Edson Auditorium with a ticket booth/counter that could be stored against the wall when not in use. Also, there would be a new overhead piece that matches the style of Higbie's. There will be some upgrade of the wall material. Maybe seating and tables along the side of the corridor will be added. The idea is to transform the corridor into an auditorium lobby. That's all about \$91k.

Q: Can we cover up the brick? Are there historical building issues?

RT: There is not likely to be any problem. We covered other portions of the brick when we remodeled the Student Center Building. Nothing has been done inside Edson Auditorium since 1957, other than putting in a sprinkler system and removing some asbestos.

RT: So on the FY18: The same sum of \$66k from student fees will be allocated to the project. Also include \$40k from HEAPR funding and \$100k from programmatic funds, which is one more installment from the Capital Investment Fund. Add \$70k from campus funds. The total is \$276k.

RT: The project would now turn to the stage floor, which is in terrible shape. Dave Israels-Swenson, thought they could get by until 2018. The new floor will be more modern. Next, the audience seating and flooring will be replaced for \$125k. This includes replacing all seats and resurfacing the floor. Plus, there will be \$29.5k for some mechanical work having to do with unit heaters along the walls. With contingency, this totals \$205k.

RT: That is the project scope. This is based on plan A for lobby and auditorium. Lobby plan B would include some additional flooring and work on the railings. The extra cost would be about \$50k. All railings in the building are not up to new codes. New cables would be installed in the railings. Plan B for the auditorium is mostly a new air handler, adding about \$200k to the project.

Q: What are the terms of the loan repayment from student fees? A: \$66k for 2 years, then 50% until the loan is repaid.

JA: What input/feedback do you need from this committee?

LR: Vice Chancellors have reviewed it. The wild card in this whole discussion is what the Legislature will do. Four weeks ago, the Governor asked for a higher HEAPR allocation, so the Legislature asked the University to present a \$70M request in lieu of the \$55M requested earlier. If this request is funded, UMM will have an additional \$300k that would be earmarked for this project. If this happens, we will move from pre-design into design this summer, so now is the time for any additional input.

Q: What about the 24-hr lounge? Is it in the scope of this project? There was reference to the space, if not necessarily for a computer lab.

LR: This was not included in the presentation of this project to the Chancellor.

JA: Calls up minutes of the relevant VC meeting. This is talking about the Study Lounge. Can the wall between the lounge and lobby be opened? This is not a current part of the project.

JH: Is there a way to restructure that space to put a computer lounge in there?

RT: There was discussion about this. It has to be a lockable 24-hr space that can be closed to the interior of the Student Center. Could the space be set up differently, say, with movable partitions? The point of that discussion was to make sure we don't forget about the lounge.

JA: What if these renovations are going to be the norm for another 50 years? Maybe after 5 years, we won't need computer labs any more.

RT: This space could also serve as an extra Green Room for Oyate functions.

Q: Is this project in competition with other campus projects?

RT: Well, everything is in competition for limited funding. The argument can be made that this space has not been changed in over 50 years and the number of students and visitors it serves. And we can only use HEAPR funding for certain projects. Yes, lots of things need to be done, and most of them have been prioritized.

JA: We have run out of time. We should continue some of these discussions via email. In particular, we should make up a packet of materials we have generated in our discussions for next year's committee.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.