

Planning and Operations Annual Report 2000/2001

Marcia Barrett & Bill Keel, co-chairs

The committee looked at the following issues:

◆ Academic Calendar

In fall 2000 the law school began classes 10 days earlier than the rest of the campus. There are classes cross-listed as law and A&S classes, meaning some students arrived on campus to find they had missed almost two weeks of class. Upon contacting the Registrar's Office, we learned that it is possible to send a notice to all students pre-registered for a course with special scheduling issues which should be done in cases like this. Also, it is possible to have a "special session" defined for cross-listed courses which might, for example, run from the start of the A&S term to the end of the law term.

◆ Campus Master Plan

The committee reviewed the 1999 update to the Campus Master Plan. Due to a proposed RV parking lot and expansion of the Student Recreation Center, we focused on plans for the east campus. The committee was concerned about loss of green space in this area. We endorse the resolutions passed by the Campus Master Plan Committee in November 2000.

Resolutions by Campus Master Plan Committee

Passed by Committee on November 20, 2000

1. The University should preserve a continuous corridor of green space that runs from 5th Avenue (between the new Medical Center complex and the new intramural tennis courts) to the corner of Bryce Lawn Drive and University Blvd. The undeveloped, semi-natural status of the green space is unique on this campus and should be preserved as a high priority. Future development of this area, except as needed to preserve its semi-natural character, should be prohibited.
2. The University should undertake limited improvement of the green corridor, installing unpaved walking paths, but otherwise the corridor should be reserved as a minimally maintained green space.
3. The University or the City of Tuscaloosa should install paved and lighted sidewalks along the perimeter of the east campus green space.
4. The University recognizes that the prohibition against further development within the green corridor means that Athletic Department facilities tentatively proposed for this area must be located elsewhere.
5. In planning the Capstone Medical Center, the University should accommodate the continuity of the green corridor by minimizing the depth of the facility away from University Blvd, perhaps by increasing its frontage along University Blvd.
6. In planning the new Recreation Center parking lot and intramural tennis courts, the University should

accommodate the continuity of the green corridor by siting these facilities as far north as practical.

This is an issue of ongoing concern. Ed Stephenson is the 2001/2001 chair of the Campus Master Plan Committee. The Planning and Operations liaison to that committee can provide updates on the issue.

◆ Major Renovation Schedule

The committee reviewed the New Construction/Major Renovation Schedule, Phase One 2001-2005 and met with Jeff Neighbors, Director of Facility Planning. Plans include construction of Shelby Hall, the Child Development Research, Teaching and Outreach Facility, the Ambulatory Care Medical Facility, and the Campus Drive parking deck; expansion of the Ferguson and ten Hoor parking decks; renovation of Graves Hall, Hardaway Hall, Foster Auditorium, Lloyd Hall and Biology (4th floor); construction of a new energy plant for engineering and expansion of the C&BA energy plant.

The committee endorses the move to smaller energy plants throughout campus, as this allows for lower energy costs, easier maintenance, and a better response to rapid weather changes. The committee also recommends renovation of Foster Auditorium be given first priority. Doing so would allow the unused facility to be used as classroom and office space during other renovations and would bring recognition to the historical significance of the building.

◆ ACHE Faculty Workload Issue

This issue was passed to Planning and Operations this year from Research and Service. Legislation passed in 1996 mandates collection of faculty workload data. The legislation is found in Title 16, Chapter 5, Section 16-5-7 of the 1975 Alabama Code and reads:

The commission (Alabama Commission on Higher Education), after affording a full opportunity to two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education and the public to be heard, shall design and establish a state university and college information system, to include an electronic faculty unit record system, in order to provide comprehensive, meaningful, and timely information pertinent to the formulation of decisions and recommendations by the commission and the Legislature. The information, including the data components required by the electronic faculty unit record system, submitted by the public institutions of higher education shall be in comparable terms and shall meet the specific requirements as established by the commission and the reports developed through the system shall conform to procedures established by the commission.

(2) In order to promote accountability, the commission shall establish a uniform electronic faculty unit record system for the purpose of obtaining information on faculty work loads at two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education in the state. Each two-year and four-year public institution in the state shall report annually to the commission its individual faculty work loads. The commission shall then forward a summary of this information to the Governor and the Legislature and the Chair of the Council of College and University Presidents and the State Board of Education. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or permit the commission to set standards or establish policies for public

institutions of higher education concerning faculty and staff hiring, promotion, or retention. This authority rests solely with the governing board of the institution.

The Higher Education Information Advisory Group (HEIAG) is the official advisory committee to ACHE and is charged with submitting the data to ACHE. HEIAG is made up of institutional research staff from 2- and 4-year institutions. There is no representative from UA, nor is there any faculty representation. Mary Beth Adams (University of Alabama at Birmingham) was the chair this year. Kim Thoma from the UA Systems Office is a member of the committee.

ACHE has compiled a data dictionary, using elements from the Middaugh study (see www.udel.edu/IR/cost/). A draft is available on the Senate website under *Miscellaneous Senate Documents*. There are plans for a pilot data collection this summer, using data from fall 2000.

Sandra Woodley addressed the Senate Steering Committee in March, giving an update on the workload database. She distributed a Feb. 2001 draft of an ACHE resolution stating that ACHE will not be considered an office of record for faculty data files, and that any request for information on a unit record basis will not be accepted by ACHE but will always be referred to the appropriate institutional Office of Record. The resolution also states that reports generated from the faculty database records will only contain aggregate data and even aggregate data will not be reported when individual faculty members can conceivably be identified in the report. Planning and Operations supports the general spirit of this version of the resolution. We highly recommend the incoming committee obtain a final copy of this resolution at the earliest possible date.

Ms. Woodley also distributed the draft of a bill proposed by various institutional representatives (it's not clear who wrote the bill). It has not been introduced in the Legislature and we have since learned that the draft has undergone changes. The draft that we have reviewed is a vast improvement over the current legislation and addresses many of the concerns the committee has over the workload database. Bill Fendley, Director of Institutional Research at UA, has provided the committee with a lot of information, and we recommend the incoming committee maintain contact with him and determine the status of the proposed bill at the earliest possible date.