Facilities Planning Committee Meeting Notes
December 12, 2012

Attendees: Gary Shaw, Andy Curran, Valerie Nye, Mike Whaley, Karen Anderson, Ishita Mukerji, Elijah Huge, Nancy Meislahn, Joe Siry, John Meerts, Karen Kasprow for BJ Wilson, Joyce Topshe

Agenda
1. 24 Hour Study Space in Exley-The space is complete and open for 24 hour study-7 days per week. Students have been observed utilizing the space at all hours. A few original glitches in the card access privileges for some individuals (including the custodian) have been corrected. Temporary signage has been modified a few times. The committee proposed that we consider updating the furniture if the space becomes permanent. The current furniture was recycled from inventory due to budget constraints when the space was originally established.

2. APP House sale update-50 houses have been sold to date, 1 house is under contract (186 Washington Street), 2 houses are on the open market at 11 Fairview and 16 Brainerd, and 2 houses were just announced for the December APP open houses at 40 Fairview and 15 Brainerd. The open houses were rushed to occur before break because a faculty member has been waiting patiently for the 15 Brainerd house to be offered and must finalize her purchase ASAP. Otherwise we could not host an open house until the first week of February. Our policy is to not place 2 houses in the same neighborhood on the open market at the same time. therefore, once we conclude this 30 day offering to faculty and staff, we will select only 1 of 2 houses on Brainerd and 1 of 2 houses on Fairview to place on the open market at a time.

3. Committee Structure and Roles-the facilities planning committee was formed in January 2009 as a consolidation of the space committee, the masterplan executive committee, the major maintenance leadership committee and the ADA committee. This was to improve efficiency since there were so many of the same people on each committee. The cabinet would make executive decisions. In June of 2010 the role of the Wesleyan Landmarks Advisory Board (WLAB) was incorporated into the Facilities Planning Committee and their chair, Joe Siry was added to the membership of the Facilities Planning Committee. The former role of the WLAB was advisory to the president on matters affecting the historic buildings on campus. Recent feedback from faculty suggests that communication on issues related to Facilities could be improved. Joe Siry agreed to speak on behalf of the Facilities Planning Committee at occasional faculty meetings (including a report on house sales). Joyce agreed to post summary meeting agendas on the web page. Joe Siry noted that he is tremendously concerned about commercial development on the northern edge of campus (Washington Street). Joe referred to the resolution passed by faculty opposing such development. Other members of the committee were not opposed to the sale of 186 Washington Street and suggested that a creative repurposing of the Washington Street properties could be in Wesleyan’s best interest.

4. OGSS Proposal-a proposal from Mike Whaley and Ishita Mukerji to reconfigure space on the 1st floor of Exley to enhance the Graduate Studies suite was approved. Mike will request capital funding for the $150k+- proposal which will be considered in the context of other capital needs.
5. **Boat Storage request**—a proposal from the student sailing club to utilize the basement of the former carpenter garage at Long Lane for boat storage was approved. The sailing club will save $7,500/year in off-site boat storage fees. The club will fund the cost to make the space safe and secure.

6. **Mount Vernon Houses**—a complete study of all housing on campus is nearing completion and will be shared soon. A more detailed analysis of the houses on Mount Vernon was discussed. For Mount Vernon we estimated a variety of options for each house including reducing the rents for faculty and staff, repurposing the house for undergraduate housing or for offices. The committee is invited to share feedback and more discussion is planned at the next Facilities meeting.

7. **Capital Spending**—It was suggested that the administration should increase transparency with regard to the capital planning process. The process is somewhat of a mystery to most. Val Nye agreed to share a report of existing capital spending at the next meeting. Academic Affairs has a budget of $125k/year for non-computing capital. The university spends a little more than $2M/year for all capital and most of it is dedicated to the science masterplan projects.

8. **Meeting Schedule**—The 11am meeting schedule conflicts with classes for some faculty members of the committee. Joyce will arrange a doodle poll to determine if a 4pm meeting time works better for future meetings.