Council of the Princeton University Community
Minutes, February 11, 2013

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community held February 11, 2013 in 010 East Pyne. Present were Council members Ms. Alivisatos, Ms. Bui, Mr. Burd, Ms. Cherrey, Ms. Clifton, Mr. Cook, Prof. Davis, Mr. Diskin, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Durden, Mr. Durkee, Provost Eisgruber, Prof. Harman, Dr. Hourihane, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Kim, Mr. Kugelmass, Mr. Maisel, Ms. Mancenon, Dr. Matthies, Mr. McDonough, Prof. Morel, Dr. Neglia, Mr. Okuda-Lim, Mr. Riley, Prof. Rivett, Mr. Robertson, Ms. Scott, President Tilghman (chair), Ms. Wright, Prof. Wysocki, Dr. Yao, and Mr. Zhu; Ms. Halliday was secretary.

The President called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and the roll was called. She asked for and received approval of the minutes of the December 10 meeting. There were no questions.

Introduction of the New Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

The President introduced Jay Dominick, appointed this summer as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer. Previously Mr. Dominick was the University of North Carolina-Charlotte’s top-ranking information technology officer and before that was CIO at Wake Forrest University. Mr. Dominick described his first six months at Princeton as a time to meet members of the University community, to get an understanding of campus culture, and to begin to think about long-range plans. He urged members of the Council to contact him if they had questions or suggestions.

Academic Calendar

Dean of the College Valerie Smith reported on a recent review of the academic calendar led by her and the Dean of the Faculty. The focus of the review was narrow -- on fall and Thanksgiving breaks. With help from the USG, an undergraduate survey and broadly inclusive focus groups were organized this fall to consider changes to fall semester. The following key themes emerged.

- 83% of students support starting Thanksgiving break on Wednesday.
- Students value fall break which they use for class trips, athletic events, political activities, and as a time to recuperate from and catch up after mid-terms.
- There is little interest in exchanging a week at Thanksgiving for fall break even by students who live far from campus.
- Starting Thanksgiving break on Wednesday may make travel easier and cheaper for those who do leave campus.
- Starting fall-term classes on Wednesday instead of Thursday has real advantages because it would allow students to experience the Monday-Wednesday set of lectures.

Dean Dobkin reported that faculty agree with students. Because Thursdays are usually used for precepts, it is preferable to begin classes on Wednesday, and that might shorten course “shopping” time. Faculty don’t usually use Thanksgiving break for professional travel, but they do use fall break to attend conferences, etc. He had also asked colleagues about scheduling of fall term
examinations. Generally those in the humanities favor having examinations after Christmas because the extra time helps to “digest” material.

During the discussion that followed, Dean Smith said that the next step is to prepare a proposal for the faculty to approve (the academic calendar is the responsibility of the faculty). If approved, the change might go into effect in the next academic year, but that would depend on addressing the domino effects of such a change including its impact on the freshman orientation schedule. Dean Smith thanked the USG for their help especially arranging the focus groups for researching these questions.

Campus Renovation and Construction Projects; Planning for the Lewis Center

The President introduced Assistant Vice President for Design and Construction Anne St. Mauro who gave the annual overview of building and renovations projects including the following:

- Firestone Library: This 10-year renovation project has begun and covers everything from infrastructure upgrades to new reading rooms, all to be completed while the library remains open for use.
- 20 Washington Road: When the Department of Chemistry moved to its new home, 20 Washington Road became available for repurposing. Demolition work has begun and will be followed by renovation of the space to house international programs and the Department of Economics. A new entrance onto Scudder Plaza is planned along with atrium spaces to connect the three wings of the building.
- Andlinger Center: Construction of the three-story home for energy and the environment has begun and will be completed in 2015. The project includes laboratory, lecture and office space plus attention to landscape details and use of gardens.
- Olden House: A project on Olden Street that will provide housing for visiting faculty should be completed this year.
- Peretsman-Scully Psychology building; Princeton Neuroscience Institute: New homes for neuroscience and psychology are nearing completing near Icahn Laboratory.
- Housing: Work has begun by American Campus Communities on Lakeside at the former Hibben Magie apartment location. The complex will provide new housing for graduate students. ACC is also developing the former Merwick site on Route 206 for faculty and staff housing. Stanworth apartments are slated to be razed and new housing for faculty and staff built on the old foundations.

Ms. St. Mauro was joined by University Architect Ron McCoy to discuss the Lewis Arts Center. Mr. McCoy noted that the 22 acre site by Alexander Road and the Dinky station is half a mile in circumference and larger than the original College. The project includes new facilities, renovation and repurposing of existing buildings, road work and creation of a round-about, a new station for the Dinky shuttle train, a new WaWa building and a restaurant/café. While academic programs associated with the arts will remain at spaces like 185 Nassau Street and New South building, the center will provide additional performance and rehearsal spaces for theater, dance and music programs, and a new home for the Department of Music. He described the three new structures which are connected below ground and by a new major east-west walkway above ground (the walkway will extend to Streicker Bridge) and by an outdoor plaza. Attention is being paid to
use of landscape to connect the buildings and pathways. The complex will be one of the most sustainable on campus using geothermal energy to provide heating and cooling and a green roof.

Ms. St. Mauro outlined the complicated construction schedule. [The Arts and Transit website includes regular updates about this schedule: http://www.princeton.edu/artsandtransit/]

- Spring 2013: Demolition begins, and the sidewalk in front of Forbes is diverted as utility work begins along Alexander Street. Some power lines will be buried below ground, and some utility lines will be moved across the street.
- June 2013: Soon after the University's June 4 Commencement activities, the section of Alexander Street between University Place and College Road is closed for about six weeks as utility work is completed. Alexander Street traffic is rerouted via University Place and College Road.
- July 2013: Alexander Street re-opens. Initial demolition on the Arts and Transit site is completed and the construction of a new commuter parking lot and temporary train platform begins. For a one-week period, the Dinky is out of operation and is replaced by bus service.
- Fall 2013: The temporary train platform and new commuter parking lot open. Though the Dinky is operational from the temporary platform, riders have the option of taking an express bus between the existing station and Princeton Junction, until the new station opens in summer 2014. Renovation of the existing train station buildings begins, and construction starts on the transit plaza, new train station, new Wawa, and access road to the West Garage (Lot 7).
- Fall 2013 to early 2014: The new roundabout at the intersection of Alexander Street and University Place is under construction. A temporary road provides access through the site and to temporary parking at the Wawa.
- Early 2014: Traffic roundabout opens and road detours end.
- Summer 2014: The new Dinky train station, Wawa, transit plaza and access road to the West Garage (Lot 7) open. The Wawa remains open at its current location until this point in time, when it moves into its new location.
- Summer 2014 to summer 2017: The three arts buildings and public arts plaza are constructed. The opening date for the restaurant and café depends on the partner selected to operate the establishments.
- Fall 2017: The Arts and Transit Project is completed, with the arts buildings in use for the fall semester.

Lively discussion followed. Members of the Council expressed concern for the safety of students especially as they navigate new crossings on Alexander Road. Students expressed enthusiasm about the possibilities the project represents and asked whether an outdoor amphitheater could be included. Mr. McCoy said that the plans just outlined represent Phase I of the project and the project’s master plan envisions additional performance spaces and other facilities. He mentioned that while the majority of the spaces will be for academic programs, they will be made available for other events about 50 nights a year.

General Counsel Peter McDonough replied to a question about law suits that have been filed. It is not unusual for projects of this size to generate legal challenges, but the law suits to date seem to be without merit.
In response to questions about acoustics especially in the music rehearsal and performance spaces, Mr. McCoy said that the engineering team includes acousticians who have worked internationally and understand the challenges building materials may pose because of extensive use of glass.

Finally, the President responded to a question about Forbes College estimating that it is high on the list of priorities for renovation as part of the master renovation plan for dormitories and graduate student housing.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Halliday
Secretary