

## **Council of the Princeton University Community Minutes, September 22, 2008**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community held September 22, 2008 in Betts Auditorium. Present were council members Mr. Ayalon, Mr. Candelaria, Ms. Chen, Ms. Chism, Professor Cook, Ms. Dickerson, Professor Draine, Mr. Durkee, Provost Eisgruber, Mr. Fraisse, Professor Guild, Ms. Hudleston, Ms. Hultholm, Mr. Hunter, Ms. Kaplan, Dr. King, Ms. Lang, Dr. L'Esperance, Professor Lyon, Ms. McGinty, Ms. Metro, Mr. Mosteiro, Ms. Noya, Professor Nunokawa, Mr. Parameswaran, Ms. Rosen, Ms. Salciccioli, Mr. Schiff, Ms. States, Professor Strauss, Ms. Thrall, President Tilghman (chair), Mr. Lang Wang, Mr. Mike Wang, Mr. Weinstein, Mr. Zumbetta; Ms. Halliday was secretary.

### Order of Business; Committee Assignments

The President called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m., and after the roll call she thanked the members of the council for their service. She turned first to opening of the year business. On recommendation from the council's Executive Committee the Order of Business and the standing committee assignments were approved, and the council delegated authority to the Executive Committee to fill in vacancies of committees (attached as Appendices A and B).

### Question and Answer Period

During the Question and Answer Period, a question was asked about increasing the availability of study spaces including lengthening the hours of operation in facilities like Firestone Library. Executive Vice President Mark Burstein, said that his office was working with the Undergraduate Student Government on possibilities. He would have more information later in the semester, noting the many possible ramifications changing facility schedules can have, including cost.

### Bridge Year

The President introduced Professor Sandra Bermann, chair of the Department of Comparative Literature and Chair of the recent Bridge Year Program Task Force. The President summarized the rationale and logistics for the program which would begin with a relatively small number of entering undergraduate students (20) next fall. She noted the symbolic importance of the choice of the name "bridge year" over "gap year" because a gap is something you fall into; a bridge allows you to cross over to new territory. The program allows admitted freshmen to defer matriculation and spend a year committed to community service outside of where they reside (the students would enter Princeton as members of the Class of 2014). The motivations behind this 9-month program, running from September to May, include the following:

- It would expose students to a different culture and language;
- The students would have embraced service as part of their Princeton experience;
- After the intense high school experience, especially in senior year, the program would provide a good break.

With respect to logistics, the following points are important to the program:

- By starting with a relatively small group of 20 students the University will be able to learn from the first year;
- The admission process for the program requires students to write an essay about their interest in the program, and a committee would review applications;
- An on-campus orientation session for the group would be held prior to their departure;
- The University is considering a number of partner organizations who have long experience in running similar programs, and in the first phase, the University might partner with 2 to 4 of these (an RFP to about a dozen organizations has been sent);
- The partner organization would identify home-stays in places that offer good opportunities for language acquisition.

The program requires a 9-month commitment to work in the kinds of job positions that have been described as “humble service.” Clusters of students may be located in geographically close areas to help provide a mutually supportive environment. The University is committed to providing need-based financial aid to students to ensure that the opportunity is available to all. The program is envisioned to grow to about 100 students over time.

During the discussion that followed, a faculty member asked how a connection for these students to Princeton would be established, and the President pointed to the strong international alumni body as one tie as well as exchanges of blogs between the off-campus and on-campus students. Student organizations would be encouraged to adopt them. They would participate in a campus orientation program before starting the year and a University staff member would travel to visit them on site. With respect to what the University expects of the student, the emphasis is on their role as ambassadors for studying abroad and as examples of students with an “energetic commitment” to service. A graduate student referring to her own Fulbright experience suggested that at the end of the stay the students be asked to summarize their year’s work in a campus open forum. The President also confirmed that at some point the program might include students other than entering freshmen.

## Campus Plan

### *Overview*

Vice President and Secretary Robert Durkee opened the discussion about the evolution of the campus plan since it was presented to the community last spring. Planning continues to advance on projects such as the bridge over Washington Road and new facilities for chemistry, neuroscience, and psychology. The new ORFE center has opened. The proposed site for the new data center has been moved off campus, a change which reduces the amount of parking the University must provide. As a result of this move and discussions with local neighbors, the size of a new parking garage planned for east of the stadium has been reduced by some 400 vehicles. The site for the new child care center has been moved farther south closer to a position opposite 171 Broadmead. The center would increase the capacity of 192 children represented by the current centers, ULNS and UNOW, by 160 additional children. These projects would be built to meet sustainability goals.

The other area of the campus plan that has received the most attention recently is around McCarter Theatre, referred to as the arts and transit neighborhood. Changes here include new traffic patterns, with a planned roundabout at Alexander Road and University Place, as well as major expansion of facilities for the arts with provision for new homes for creative and performing arts and a new satellite museum for contemporary art. Plans include a new transit area with improved traffic flow into and out of parking lots around a new train station. Existing parking capacity in the area would be replicated and could be used for events at McCarter Theatre and the new arts center in off-peak hours. Mr. Durkee responded to a general question about parking capacity that the net change in total parking spaces gained through all of these changes in the campus plan was an additional 200 cars. But he noted that this number does not take into account the reduction in parking needs which results from the move of some campus administrative offices to West Windsor.

### *New Arts Facility*

Mr. McCoy, the University Architect, then focused on the new facility in the arts and transit neighborhood being designed for the creative and performing arts by Steven Holl Architects. He emphasized the importance of creating a new campus portal that is accessible and open to the University and broader community. The three-sided structure to be located across from Forbes College and McCarter Theatre will be the home for the Lewis Center for the Arts as well as providing teaching and performance spaces for the Program in Theater and Dance and the Department of Music. Through pictures of the building design, Mr. McCoy showed the importance of light and attention to sustainability, for example, through creative use of pools of recycled rain water in lighting the interior of the complex, the possibility of using geothermal wells for heating and cooling, and a “green” roof to assist with water management. Pathways through the building will help connect the various disciplines. The design includes a courtyard which will be open and inviting to all.

In response to questions about the location of the Dinky train station, Mr. Durkee described the proposed transit station which would include space for WaWa as well as provisions for bicycles. With respect to a timetable for development in this area, it was noted that the arts and transit neighborhood would involve planning processes in both the borough and the township. A start time for construction also depends on the many enabling projects that must be approved and completed before work on the new arts facility can begin. [More information about the arts and transit neighborhood can be found at [http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pwb/volume98/issue04/artscomplex/.](http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pwb/volume98/issue04/artscomplex/)]

A question was asked about the schedule of improvements for Dillon Gymnasium, and it was noted that this summer sections of the facility were upgraded and additional renovation work is scheduled, but that a major expansion or renovation of the facility is not scheduled as part of the current 10-year master plan.

### *Housing*

Andrew Kane, Director of Housing, then provided background and an update on housing in the context of the campus master plan. Pointing to Butler housing and Hibben/Magie

apartments, he noted that a portion of existing housing stock, both for faculty and staff and for graduate students is reaching the end of its useful life. In considering possibilities for these sites, the University must take into account where the facilities are located – for example, Hibben/Magie is in a wetlands area which limits options; Butler was built in the late 1940s when density allowances in that neighborhood were greater than current practice. The campus plan envisions continuing to provide housing for about 70% of the graduate student population, even as the School expands slightly over time. He noted that the housing master plan also needs to take into account greater availability of affordable and desirable rental units in the local area. The campus housing master plan must meet the challenges of creating new housing while maintaining current capacity and of not just renovating spaces, for example in the Hibben/Magie complex, but of reconfiguring spaces to match graduate student life-style choices. A review by his office of data gathered through student surveys suggests that graduate students prefer privacy over shared apartment spaces, and it is information like this that has led his department to adjust plans to reflect current student preferences. He noted that there is still a demand for family-size units and mentioned that such spaces would be renovated in the Magie apartments. As another example of the University's efforts to meet sustainability goals, he mentioned that the Hibben/Magie renovation project includes installation of geothermal heating and cooling.

To replace graduate student housing that will be lost at the Butler complex, units at Stanworth, which has a similar community feeling to Butler, will be converted for graduate student use. Butler would then be converted to a mixture of townhouses and single-family housing for faculty and staff. Additional faculty and staff housing would be built next to the current Dean Mathey complex. Mr. Kane also described online resources maintained by his office that provided help finding housing off campus including rental options in West Windsor, and referred the audience to the Website that describes the housing master plan (see [housing master plan](#) and [the Housing Department Homepage](#)).

The President thanked Mr. Kane, Mr. McCoy, and Mr. Durkee for their presentations and, noting the lateness of the hour, suggested that the discussion with Ms. Jackson, the Director of Parking and Transportation, about these aspects of the campus master plan be postponed to the November 10 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Halliday  
Secretary