Annual Report of the Campus Planning and Development Committee: 2015-16

The Campus Planning and Development Committee met four times during the year, November 4, December 3, and February 8, and then a fourth time with just faculty and students on April 7. Last year, a new format was introduced, wherein the committee requested a detailed briefing from Linda Snyder, Vice President of Operations, and Lois Stanley, Director of Campus Planning, for circulation ahead of the meeting. That allowed committee members to review the documents before the meeting, so that meeting time could be used more efficiently for questions and general discussion. The same format was followed this year.

Last year, the committee co-chairs requested that Operations consider a “rapid response consultation” with the committee, outside formal meeting times, for input on new capital projects or ideas. Such a “rapid response” would be provided by those committee members able to convene or to email responses. While we all realize that the large scale budget decisions require input from diverse constituencies, we also feel that faculty committees should serve as sounding boards and advisors in planning decisions, rather than simply receiving reports of ongoing projects ex post facto. The CPDC members were surprised when a press release was issued by the Tufts administration announcing plans for an Air Rights Building at the location of the proposed MBTA Green Line Station at College and Boston Avenue. Given the renewed attention to consultation, the lack of consultation with CPDC around this announcement motivated the faculty members of the Committee to push for a more institutionalized framework for CPDC involvement in campus planning and development matters.

The committee co-chairs met independently with Linda Snyder and Lois Stanley to discuss ways to improve communications and consultations. That meeting was followed by the committee co-chairs meeting with the AS&E Executive Committee on October 19, 2015. At each of the CPDC meetings, the challenges of fulfilling the Committee’s responsibilities under the AS&E bylaws and various solutions were considered. CPDC faculty and students agreed at the April 7 meeting to move ahead with plans to develop a resolution that could be brought to an AS&E faculty meeting which could codify a more formal process for the administration to solicit feedback from CPDC on campus planning and development matters. The committee co-chairs will meet with key members of the administration to jointly craft the resolution in the hopes of presenting it at a Fall 2016 AS&E faculty meeting.

During the December 3 CPDC meeting, Linda Snyder and Lois Stanley organized a presentation to the CPDC on the Air Rights Building and welcomed feedback. During the February 8 CPDC meeting, Paul Stanton (Student Services) joined the group to brainstorm about classroom space allocation issues.
For the Committee: Justin Hollander (UEP) and Juliet Fuhrman (Biology)

Faculty Members:
Clay Bennett, Chemistry  
Jane Bernstein, Music  
David Henry Feldman, Child Development  
Hugh Gallagher, Physics and Astronomy  
Mary Glaser, Math  
Anna Hardman, Economics  
William Messner, Mechanical Engineering  
John Mulligan, Drama and Dance  
Rebecca Scheck, Chemistry  
Donna Slonim, Computer Science  
Reed Ueda, History  
Jeffrey Zabel, Economics

Student Members:
Charles Kelly  
Noah Habeeb  
Jeremy Wachter

Ex Officio Members:
Jianmin Qu, Dean, School of Engineering  
James Glaser, Dean, A&S  
Yolanda King, Dir/Residential Life  
Linda Snyder, VP, Operations  
Lois Stanley, Campus Planner  
May Pat McMahon, Dean/Student Affairs  
Barbara Rubel, Dir/Community Relations