

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Facilities Committee
July 12, 2001**

A meeting of the Facilities Committee of the Board of Regents was held on Thursday, July 12, 2001 at 10:15 a.m. in the West Committee Room, 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

Regents present: H. Bryan Neel, presiding; Anthony Baraga, David Metzen, and Jessica Phillips.

Staff present: Senior Vice President Frank Cerra; Vice Presidents Sandra Gardebring and Eric Kruse; Executive Director Ann Cieslak; Associate Vice President Richard Pfutzenreuter; and Interim Associate Vice President Steven Spehn.

Student Representatives present: Patrick Peterson and Chris Wood, Alternate.

**REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION
Action**

**Acquisition of 20 Acres at 410 W. 82nd Street, Victoria,
from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation**

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the following action:

The appropriate administrative officers receive authorization to execute the appropriate documents providing for the acquisition of 20 acres at 410 W. 82nd Street, Victoria, from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation for \$1.00.

Associate Vice President Pfutzenreuter introduced Real Estate Director Susan Weinberg to present the information pertaining to the proposed acquisition, as found in the docket materials.

The property, located contiguous to the southwesterly border of the Landscape Arboretum, is anticipated to be used to expand the planting area and to provide better ecological control of the watershed. The acquisition is part of the Arboretum Master Plan.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the transaction.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION

Review

Acquisition of 200 Acres in the Vicinity of Thunderbird Lake, St. Louis County, from the University of Minnesota Foundation

Real Estate Director Susan Weinberg presented the information pertaining to the proposed acquisition, as found in the docket materials.

Weinberg reported that the property consists of 2 parcels, the largest of which is on the shore of Thunderbird Lake. The College of Natural Resources, through its Cloquet Forestry Center, has maintained the property in an undeveloped state to adhere to the conditions of the property bequest. The property is expected to be used for continuing forestry research.

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT PLAN 2000 TO 2020: RESOLUTION Action

Vice President Kruse, Senior Vice President Cerra and Planning and Programming Director Harvey Turner presented for action the Academic Health Center Minneapolis District Plan 2000 to 2020 and related Resolution, as found in the docket materials.

In response to questions from various committee members, Cerra explained that the District Plan is a vision of how to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the Academic Health Center Strategic Plan approved by the Board. The District Plan provides a framework within which programmatic decisions can be made, but the functionality and structure of the space may change over time. This flexibility reflects the consensus among major health care providers in Minnesota that the centralized model for patient care is on the wane, and that a community-partnered model of satellite clinic systems is the vision for the future. The proposed District Plan allows the University to adjust to future changes.

In response to a question from Regent Phillips, Cerra affirmed that the District Plan does meet the University's long-term need for research space, noting that a multi-disciplinary group of researchers helped create the plan.

A motion was made, seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Resolution to accept the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center Minneapolis District Plan 2000 to 2020 as a guide for the future development of the Academic Health Center Minneapolis District, as contained in the docket materials.

CENTRAL CORRIDOR TRANSIT PLAN: RESOLUTION Review/Action

Vice President Kruse, Planning & Programming Director Harvey Turner, and Director of Community Relations Jan Morlock presented the update on the Central Corridor Transit Plan and the related Resolution, as found in the docket materials.

Morlock reported that the University needs to present two Central Corridor alternatives to the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee (CCCC) for further evaluation. The transit modes being explored are Light Rail Transit (LRT), Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and improved bus service. Turner noted that this is the third LRT study of the corridor in the last ten years.

In response to a question regarding the one best alternative for the University, Turner replied that the northerly alignment would be less disruptive and would tie into the existing University shuttle system serving different areas of the campus. He stressed that the University needs to consider the impact on campus environment and on potential land use as well as the transportation issues.

A motion was made, seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Resolution identifying a northerly Light Rail Transit alignment over the existing #9 railroad bridge and a modified Bus Rapid Transit alignment on Washington Avenue without exclusive transit lanes as the two alternatives recommended to the Central Corridor planners for evaluation. The Resolution also included the following:

- in the event the Central Corridor planners choose a Light Rail Transit alignment on Washington Avenue, the University requires that the alignment and station be below grade in a tunnel;
- in the event the Central Corridor planners select an alternative that closes a section of Washington Avenue to automobile traffic through the campus, the section to be closed would be vacated and the land become part of the campus; and
- if a section of Washington Avenue is vacated and becomes part of the campus, the University would grant necessary utility and surface easements to accommodate acceptable transit service.

ST. PAUL CAMPUS NORTHEAST DISTRICT PLAN Review

Vice President Kruse, College of Biological Sciences Dean Robert Elde, and Planning and Programming Assistant Director Orlyn Miller presented for review the St. Paul Campus Northeast District Plan and proposed Resolution, as found in the materials on file in the Board Office.

Elde reported that the St. Paul Campus Northeast District Plan reflects the growth in biological research, agricultural research and biotechnology, the changing direction of research, and the opportunities arising in cross-disciplinary research.

Miller explained that the area of new development would be adjacent to the new Microbial and Plant Genomics Building and the new Plant Growth Facilities. The District Plan is comprised of development quadrants for biotechnology, plant sciences, animal sciences, experimental fields, with a smaller area set aside for service and future growth needs. The proposed facilities are expected to expand the amount of available research space by 350,000-400,000 square feet.

Miller noted that the ring-road system in the plan is designed to divert more traffic to the east side of campus, decreasing the traffic through the neighborhoods to the west of campus.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Vice President Kruse introduced Interim Associate Vice President Steven Spehn, who presented the Twin Cities Campus Building Exterior Conditions Report, as found in the docket materials. Spehn informed the committee that much of the scheduled window replacements and roof repairs must be deferred due to lack of funding. The University intends to pursue additional legislative funding through its Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) request. Regent Neel expressed regret that the significant progress in building maintenance that the University has made in recent years will falter due to insufficient funding.

Kruse reported that the two footbridges over Washington Avenue would be closed due to deteriorating structural conditions. Three options are being investigated:

- replace them in their current locations;
- replace them with one central footbridge;
- explore an alternate location further west.

The committee will receive regular updates on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

ANN D. CIESLAK
Executive Director and
Corporate Secretary

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