

## Section I

**Name of Committee:** University Services and Facilities Committee

**Submitted by:** Acting Chair Chad Kennedy on behalf of Former Chair Khaerannisa Cortes, and USFC

**Date Submitted:** April 22, 2022

### **Membership Roster:**

Sangmi Lee, Social and Behavioral Sciences, West campus

Vigas Garg, Science and Mathematics, Polytechnic campus

Duane DeVecchio, Earth and Space Exploration, Tempe campus

Stephanie Downie, Languages & Culture, Downtown Phoenix campus

Jeffrey Kingsbury, Science, Mathematics & Social Science, Downtown Phoenix campus

Chad Kennedy, The Polytechnic School, Polytechnic campus

Micki Hrcir, Health Solutions, Downtown Phoenix campus

Ellen Meissinger, School of Art, Tempe campus

Rosalind Sadleir, School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering, Tempe campus

Philip Klucsarits, The Sidney Poitier New American Film School, Tempe campus

John Dallmus, W. P. Carey School of Accountancy, West campus

### **Overview Narrative:**

The following summarizes committee work accomplished throughout this past year:

The University Services and Facilities Committee (USFC) met six times between October 2021 and April 2022. Compared to 2021, we had fewer RFCs but very meaningful and important issues to discuss and address. Our focus was on involving faculty in the process of improving and maintaining buildings and the process for faculty with disabilities to receive accommodations. We also recently added a new RFC to examine how to reduce opportunities for academic dishonesty in Canvas.

## Section II

**Request for Consultations and/or topics reviewed by the committee and outcomes** (topics reviewed by the committee decided not to act/review should be listed here with, no action taken):

RFCs are still open for the next academic year.

### **Office of the University Senate**

## Section III

**Request for Consultations and/or topics that were not started or remain unfinished and need to be carried over to the next academic year.**

### **RFC - 205: Building Maintenance vs. New Builds**

**Summary:** While the original RFC was focused on concerns that new buildings were being built without maintaining existing buildings, the RFC has shifted to ensuring faculty are more involved in the process of building maintenance and development.

**Action item(s):** This RFC has been discussed in every meeting in the 2021-2022 academic year. We compiled the concerns and met with Dr. Morgan Olsen, (Executive VP, Treasurer, and CFO) and Alex Kohnen (Vice President, Facilities Development and Management) on March 18th.

The USFC committee discussed with Dr. Olsen and Mr. Kohnen to better understand the current feedback process through the facility liaison in each program, addressed the 10th St. Elevator status, and efforts to increase transparency and communication on existing and new facility needs with faculty, staff, and students.

**Next steps:** The committee is following up with Mr. Kohnen to establish a more regular meeting schedule (~1 per semester) with the USFC committee where we can compile our survey feedback along with the Facilities office to ensure that all voices are being heard and more optimal decisions on allocating resources are made.

**RFC Status:** Open.

### **RFC - 221: Accommodations for Faculty with Disabilities**

**Summary:** A faculty member is concerned with the process for faculty to receive disability accommodations. To clarify, the issue is not the *lack* of accommodations but the difficulties and challenges involved throughout the process of receiving necessary accommodations. It is reported that the process can often be lengthy (unlike students who get accommodations from SAILS) and locating funds for the proper accommodations requires faculty and staff across levels, which can also violate faculty privacy in the process. In addition, during the 2021-2022 academic year, some of these faculty also experienced facility accessibility problems, such as elevators not working in parking garages and general issues with classroom equipment and teaching devices (e.g., mics and transcription of lectures, etc.).

**Action item(s):** The committee compiled the concerns shared with us over the year and put together resources that include potential solutions based on research of other institutions' models.

On March 18th, the USFC committee met with Erin Ellison, (Senior Director, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). We sought to understand the current employee accommodation process, presented our research findings, and made some recommendations with respect to the process and potential centralized funding model, to prevent the slow adoption of employee accommodations due to limited department funding.

**Next steps:** USFC committee member will be following up with Ms. Ellison to monitor progress, share details of our research, and help with suggestions for improvements.

**RFC Status:** Open.

## **RFC - 228: Academic Integrity Violations Made Easy with Canvas**

**Summary:** Canvas allows students to see the roster of the class and access students' emails. This feature has made it possible for students to send out mass emails for non-academic purposes and create "cheating rings."

**Action item(s):** (1) Asked UTO to allow faculty to turn this option off, (2) Asked UTO to provide instructors with a fake student email account so they can be included in these mass messages to detect such improper use of Canvas emailing function. The committee discussed disabling such functions to alleviate the concern, but there are some significant downsides because group emailing can be useful for legitimate collaboration opportunities in most classes (e.g., students can email each other to invite others to participate in their class projects and develop teamwork, etc.). The other question that came up is whether or not this is the purview of the Student-Faculty Policy Committee.

Next steps: A USFC committee member contacted the UTO office to follow up on Canvas setting adjustments to either set up a mock student account or see if the option for students to email each other can be turned off at a course level. The ensuing discussion led to a response from Canvas, stating that we would need to raise the issue on the Canvas suggestions lists to have enough upvotes to approve such a change. This did not seem like an adequate tentative solution, so we are revisiting with our ASU counterparts to see if we can get more direct solutions to the issue rather than wait on a maybe.

**RFC Status:** Open.

The USFC was contacted by Senator Sherman Dorn representing the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). Senator Dorn presented the GPSA's goals of Family-Friendly Space and Resource Planning to help ease the burden of professional students with children. The USFC will be reviewing the goals and our potential role in this request during the next academic session.

## **Section IV**

### **Recommendations to the Senate or Final Comments**

The USFC is working to establish concrete roles and responsibilities since facility development decisions are controlled at the administrative level with budgetary controls. We are recommending the USFC play an advisory role to work in conjunction with that team to have multiple sources and data gathering and feedback so that we can facilitate better decision-making and provide a voice for staff, students, and faculty.