

**University Senate
Annual Committee Report
Academic Year 2020-2021**

Section I

Name of Committee: University Services and Facilities Committee

Submitted by: Khaerannisa Cortes, Chair

Date Submitted: 4/21/21

Membership Roster:

Sangmi Lee, Social and Behavioral Sciences, West campus 2022

Vigas Garg, Science and Mathematics, Polytechnic campus 2022

Susan Squire, Polytechnic School, Polytechnic campus 2022

Duane DeVecchio, Earth and Space Exploration, Tempe campus 2022

Stephanie Downie, Languages & Culture, Downtown Phoenix campus 2021

Robert Grosse, Global Management, Downtown Phoenix campus 2021

Jeffrey Kingsbury, Science, Mathematics & Social Science, Downtown Phoenix campus 2022

Ellen Meissinger, Art, Tempe campus 2021

Chad Kennedy, Polytechnic School, Polytechnic campus 2022

Olivier Vallerand, The Design School, Tempe campus 2022

Micki Hrnecir, Health Solutions, Downtown Phoenix campus 2022

Overview Narrative:

The following summarizes committee work accomplished throughout this past year:

The University Services and Facilities Committee (USFC) met six times between September 2020 and April 2021. During this unprecedented academic year, the USFC had a unique opportunity to address issues that may have not been the primary focus in past years. We were able to address issues around parking, open-floor spaces, lactation rooms, outdoor classroom spaces, and building a relationship with business affairs to encourage faculty input in projects.

Office of the University Senate

Interdisciplinary B Room 361
PO Box 181703 Tempe, AZ 85287-1703
480-965-2222 Fax: 480-965-0814
usenate.asu.edu

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):

RFC - 152: Mapping Dark Zones on Campus

Summary: Create a list of areas of dark zones on campus and provide the list to the university with a request for improvements

Action item(s): Nichol Luoma and her team took corrective action at all the parking lot locations that were considered in the dark zone (i.e., Lot 31, Lot 36, Lot 39, Lot 42, Lot 43, and Lot 47), except Lot 53. The reason no action was taken at Lot 53 is because the researcher (Dr. Martin) requested we do not add additional lighting as it would negatively impact research on plant growth in the Greenhouse facilities. Lot 53 is a very small gravel lot that is seldom used during the day or after hours.

RFC Status: Closed September 15, 2020

RFC - 196: Lack of Closed Office Space

Summary: There was a concern as to whether the lack of partitions, assigned desks, and spaces are producing poor productivity outcomes and privacy concerns, especially FERPA. This article offered as a reference:

https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/04/airpods-open-planoffices/588112/?utm_source=pocket-newtab

NTE faculty are more likely to be assigned to these open-floor plans rather than closed office spaces.

Action item(s): (1) Senate President Simin Levinson sent a letter to Provost Searle regarding several concerns from faculty, including the open floor plan as faculty were concerned with FERPA, being unable to socially distance during times of COVID, hierarchical priorities (TT have closed offices but NTE are in the open floor plan). (2) Senator Cortes shared these issues with the Personnel Committee, (3) Senator Downie will speak to the CISA Ad-hoc Instructor Equity group about this concern to ensure there is equality over how the open floor spaces are used.

RFC Status: Closed February 18, 2021

RFC - 206: Manzanita Housing Safety

Summary: Concerns with (1) washer and dryer, (2) black mold, (3) maintenance staff, (4) infestations due to trash getting backed up, (5) ADA violations, (6) allergies in the dining hall, (7) elevators

Action item(s): Senator Wells had met with Dr. Montoya and her staff the previous academic year and the concerns were addressed and resolved.

RFC Status: Closed September 16, 2020

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RFC - 208: Parking Difficulties for Teaching Faculty

Summary: Many teaching faculty have a mix of online vs face-to-face that changes every semester, faculty may be forced to park as visitors and it's frustrating and expensive.

Action item(s): Senator Squire reached out to PTS and their response was: Parking and Transportation Services is currently working with vendors on a similar solution to provide a more customer service-friendly daily choice model.

RFC Status: Closed October 19, 2020

RFC - 211: Parking Fees for Current Permit Holders

Summary: Faculty keep paying the monthly fee but not utilizing the parking space

Action item(s): Senator Squire reached out to PTS and their response was:

Employees who purchase parking permits receive a pre-tax benefit on their paychecks. The payroll deductions are not dependent upon whether employees park on campus during any specific pay period.

ASU maintains fixed costs to run parking and transportation operations despite COVID-19, which includes the following: Ensure that intercampus shuttles, non-parking-related services, and other contractual partnerships remain operational. Maintain all parking lots and garages. Preserve debt service payments on bonds and new construction. Secure facility operations to support essential employees and the university. Continued permit payments help ASU fulfill its educational mission to our students and the communities we serve. ASU appreciates the understanding and adaptability of our employees as we navigate the unprecedented effects of COVID-19.

RFC Status: Closed October 19, 2020

RFC - 215: Lactation Rooms Across all Four Campuses

Summary: Increasing lactation rooms was part of an old RFC from 2017-2018: RFC-153. However, it seems like the focus was on the Tempe Campus.

Action item(s): We looked into the number of Lactation Rooms on campus and concluded that there has been an increase in Lactation Rooms since the last RFC on Lactation Rooms. For students who need additional accommodations, they can contact SAILS (previously DRC) and for faculty who need additional accommodations, they can contact the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

If possible, we would suggest the USFC committee in the future when more people are back on campus to check with these two departments to see if they are frequently being contacted for additional accommodations.

RFC Status: Closed November 18, 2020

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RFC - 219: Outdoor Classrooms

Summary: Leadership had shared that there would be options to hold class outdoors, thus there was interest in seeing how to reserve outdoor classrooms.

Action item(s): Tempe is the only campus currently with actual outdoor classrooms. We would like to share the information about the outdoor classrooms with the rest of the senate: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TDbVpW6a7ygxQJo2T9LdnEd_ClfZUGk-/view.

RFC Status: Closed February 18, 2021

RFC - 222: Support for GPSA Resolution

Summary: GPSA wanted support for their resolution:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QT4W4WJlrnySMA_i01aW9-cBYEndC_On5gm5oEgi6HA/edit

Action item(s): GPSA Representative came to discuss the GPSA resolution and the committee decided it would fit best with the Student-Faculty Policy Committee.

RFC Status: Transferred to Student-Faculty Policy Committee April 12, 2021

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: Faculty were concerned that new buildings were being built without maintaining existing buildings

Action item(s): This RFC has been discussed in every meeting in the 2020-2021 academic year. Throughout the year, the following actions have been taken: (1) Senator Kennedy joined a PTS Vendor committee, (2) committee members reached out to different branches of the Business Affairs Unit, and (3) drafted a letter to Dr. Olsen to encourage more collaboration between faculty and the various parts of the Business Affairs unit in the university.

RFC Status: Open.

RFC - 221: Accommodations for Faculty with Disabilities

Summary: A faculty member is concerned with the process for faculty to receive accommodations. To clarify, the issue is not the *lack* of accommodations but the process in order to receive the accommodations can be lengthy and locating funds for the accommodations can require involvement from a number of people which can violate faculty privacy.

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Action item(s): The committee looked into the issues and seems that process could be streamlined so it is a similar structure to students' SAILS and would like to better understand why the funding is not centralized.

RFC Status: Open.

Section IV

Recommendations to the Senate or Final Comments

Given the pandemic, some of the closed RFCs may need to be revisited as our campuses begin to reopen and repopulate.

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