**Planning and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 6:00 pm**

***Spotlight Room***

**Call to Order 6:00 pm**

**Roll Call**

**Committee:**

Senator Blanco-Lobo, CAS Faculty

Senator Bonnell, MIL Faculty, PFC Chair

Senator Cottingham, Student Senator, Secretary

Dr. Cutting, Provost Designee (non-voting)

Senator Gaucin, Student Senator

Senator Godwyll, COE Faculty

AVP Hendrix, VPFP Designee (non-voting)

Senator Horst, WKCFA Faculty, Senate Chair

Senator Lawson, CS Rep

Senator Leone, Student Senator

AVP Polifka, VP Student Affairs Designee (non-voting)

Senator Sankara, COB Faculty

**Guest:** Dean Tom Keyser, College of Engineering

**Public Comment:** none

**Order of Business**

1. **Approval of Committee Minutes from 11/20/2024**

Motion by Senator Horst and seconded by Senator Cottingham, to approve minutes. The motion carried.

1. **2024–2025 Priorities Report, College of Engineering Building on G.E. Road**

Bonnell introduced College of Engineering Dean Tom Keyser. Keyser shared an overview of G.E. Road buildings purchased for the College of Engineering, a SWOT analysis for John Green and G.E. Road buildings, and he answered questions from committee members. Topics addressed are below:

Transportation to Off-Campus Facilities

* Keyser shared that driving by car to G.E. Road facilities from campus takes approximately 7 minutes with little traffic, and about 9 minutes with traffic. One option being explored is creating a devoted transit route to extend bus service to G.E. Road facilities.

Student Support

* It is important that students have an Illinois State University experience where they feel welcomed and supported. The facilities would include devoted spaces for student clubs, tutoring, informal study lounges, and flexible conference spaces to meet the needs of a variety of events and programming.

Housing

* Engineering students have the option of joining an Engineering Themed Living-Learning Community (TLLC) in Manchester Hall.
* There is little rental housing in the area. The area near the facility is zoned for single-family residences.

Food Service and Dining

* The Link structure connecting the West and East buildings includes a cafeteria. When that space is available in the Fall of 2026 it could be utilized for food service. Grab-and-go and vending options are other possibilities.

Security

* At the G.E. Road building the idea is to mirror services available on campus, and security would be onsite.
* Country Financial uses a security system similar to the University’s and already has card readers for swipe access.

Faculty Research Space

* One of the advantages of the G.E. Road facility is the opportunity to create quality lab space for faculty research. John Green could not accommodate faculty research. This is crucial for recruitment and retention of engineering faculty.

Facilities

* Having been renovated in 2022, the space has been classified as “Class A,” and among the best maintained of University facilities. There was a question about others in the University wanting to take advantage of this space, especially given the poor conditions in some other on-campus facilities. In Phase II of the project there will be opportunities to explore mixed-use space for non-College of Engineering units. This would be desirable and contribute toward creating a vibrant culture for engineering students.

Applications

* Keyser shared he has been closely following demographics of accepted students into the Engineering program.
  + Currently there were 820 admissions.
    - 49.7% are Hispanic (3.8 GPA)
    - 30% are African American
    - 32% are first-generation college students
    - 19% are female
      * To increase that rate in the future, Keyser noted an option could be to expand the types of programs to include environmental and biomedical engineering that typically attract higher rates of women.
* He stated that calculus is a required course and they are aware that some will need a pathway via pre-calculus.

Partnerships

* Keyser shared that the College of Engineering Advisory Board includes members from Illinois-based corporations such as Caterpillar, ADM, and Kemp. There is high demand for engineers in Illinois and companies are interested in working with the University’s engineering students.

Facilities

* The property was purchased for $17.5 million with additional renovation expenses expected at $33 million. Costs for classrooms, labs, and other equipment would be an additional $4.5 million. This is less than the ~$80–$100 million anticipated to renovate John Green and Carter Harris.
* There are many pieces to the space planning process. Design work is being conducted by external consultants.

1. **Adjourn**

Motion by Senator Horst seconded by Senator Leone. The motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:48 pm

**SWOT Analysis shared by College of Engineering Dean Tom Keyser**

|  |  |  |
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| John Green Building | | |
| Strengths |  | Opportunities |
| On Campus |  | Can house up to 520 Engineering Students |
| 80,00 Square Feet of Available Space |  | Cardinal Court as a Living/Learning Community' |
| Renovation would provide 'nearly new' spaces |  |  |
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| Weakness |  | Threats |
| More than 10 minute Walk to Main campus |  | Escalating Construction Costs |
| More than 10 minute Shuttle ride to campus |  | Discovery of New Building Issues |
| No Faculty Research Spaces |  | May Outgrow Facility Quickly |
| Required Additional Shuttle Services |  | 11/4/2024 Enrollment FTIC Projection: 160-194 Students |
| Isolation of Students |  | Expansion of Building would eliminate available parking |
| Hidden, non Visible Space |  | Area around building is run down and has poor appearance |
| Cost per Square Foot is Average |  | Fiscal Uncertainty of University |
| Limited Student Competition Space |  | Isolation of Faculty and Staff |
| Limited Student Club Spaces |  | Faculty Retention |
| Limited Student Design Space |  | Perception of 2nd class citizen for students, faculty and staff |
| Need to Relocate IT Network Resources (costly) |  |  |
| Limited Devoted Student Support Space |  |  |
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| Additional Notes | | |
| Building can accommodate incoming classes of about 130 students | | |
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| GE Road Building | | |
| Strengths |  | Opportunities |
| Low Cost per Square Foot |  | Can house up to 1,250 Engineering Students |
| Sibling Building of 200,000 square feet |  | Room for Expansion of new Degrees BS/MS |
| Renovation would provide 'nearly new' spaces |  | Room for Collaboration Spaces |
| Faculty Research Spaces Available |  | Research Space for External Funded Research |
| Devoted Student Support Spaces Available |  | Expanded Student Support Space(s) |
| Room for Growth and Expansion |  | Ability to Offer Additional EDI Support and Programming |
| Ample Parking |  | Short Course/Certificate Opportunities for Professionals |
|  |  | Food Service Available |
|  |  | Additional 200,000 sqft for other campus needs |
| Weakness |  | Threats |
| More than 10 minute Walk to Main campus |  | Escalating Construction Costs |
| More than 10 minute Shuttle ride to campus |  | Discovery of New Building Issues |
| 2.1 miles from main campus |  | Fiscal Uncertainty of University |
| Isolation of Faculty and Staff |  | Perception of 2nd class citizen for students, faculty and staff |
| Isolation of Students |  |  |
| Requires Increased Student Support and Security Presence |  |  |
| Potentially Requires Additional Shuttle Service |  |  |
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| Additional Notes | | |
| Building can accommodate incoming classes of about 325 students | | |
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