



# College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

## AGENDA

### StaffLINKS Committee Meeting

August 9, 2016

11:00-Noon

249 Barnhart Building

Presiding: Karin Pekarchik, Chair

**Members Present:** Penny Mazur, Stephanie Chandler, Lisa Collins, Kim Leonberger, Karin Pekarchik, Judy Burgess, Cindy Stidham, Helen Williams, Jozsef Stork, Rhesa King, Jenny Evans, Kristin Watkins

**Members Absent:** Sarah Caton, Tracy Cayson, Jennie Condra, Debbie Gutierrez, Sheryl Friend, Kim Henken, Abby Sorrell, Eileen Kopp, Christine Tarne, Marilyn Hooks, Jackie Allen

**11:00**            **Welcome**

**11:05**            **Updates from Dr. Workman**

The University commissioned a Master Plan Study using the Sasaki design team for the campus south of hospital. The Sasaki team went in all the CAFE buildings and talked to the department chairs and others. Some buildings raised special concern, specifically Dimock, Cooper and Garrigus. Gluck and KTRDC were considered to be the best of the CAFE buildings. Sasaki presented draft plans in June and July to various parties. The plan will be presented to Provost Tracy and Vice President Monday on August 9 and after their approval it will be a final plan. Proposed improvements in the plan include a new Animal Sciences building and teaching pavilion for Animal Sciences, a new Forestry and Natural Resource Sciences building near Good Barn, a student commons (similar to The 90) between Forestry and Plant Sciences, and possibly new space for HES. Time frame is over 50 years or so, but the time frame is dependent on fundraising from donors and the state government. Regulatory Services would remain where it is. Farm Road would be closed to make a more pedestrian, mall-like campus. As a note of comparison, CAFE's newest building is the Plant Sciences Building which was built in 2002. Since 2002, 65% of the College of Agriculture buildings at University of Tennessee are new or renovated.

The university has decided to review how fleet services and the motor pool are operated, to find savings and efficiency. There were proposals last year to divest from the motor pool, but this was not deemed a viable choice. A group of fleet services experts (Huron-Penn transportation services group) studied fleet services and the motor pool, and came away saying that CAFE was one of the best run fleet

services and motor pool programs at any university, but PPD's garage was one of the worst. A draft plan will be presented on Friday, which includes a recommendation that fleet services needs to be handled by the University, not CAFE. The new baseball stadium will be built near Alumni Drive which will cause motor pool and engineering shop to be moved. The University has purchased 17 acres of warehouses off of Forbes Rd., and it is likely that the motor pool might be moved here, as well as Environmental Health and Safety Unit.

The Grain Center for Excellence is being funded by tobacco settlement money, distributed through the Kentucky Ag Development Board. CAFE has received \$15 million in these funds to renovate the Princeton facilities, and is responsible for a match of \$15 million over 5 years, for a total \$30 million project. At the end of the project the Princeton building will have a 15,000 square foot addition and renovation of existing space, making the Princeton facility like new. Additional farm land has been purchased to study precision agriculture and irrigation, among other research areas. The goal is to make Princeton a regional, multi-state center for grain research.

The Cooper House project is still planned, but on hold currently. The design was for a one-story building, but it is thought that maybe a two-story building would be better. The Cooper House is being incorporated into the master plan study. The Sasaki plan might involve moving the Cooper House, but CAFE administration is opposed to this, because of sentiment and cost.

Wayfinding is a problem for the CAFE campus. CAFE allocated money to put up signs, but this was put on hold because of the logo change. Now that the logo is approved, the plan is moving again, and should happen in the next few weeks.

A new sidewalk will be placed near the exit of the Orange lot going to the tunnel under Cooper to improve pedestrian safety. This will involve adding a crosswalk across Farm Rd. as well.

24-30 parking spaces are being added near KTRDC. Also, tiered parking has already started with this year (EK vs. E parking passes). There are ongoing discussions between UK and the City about the proposal to close Rose St. as well as ongoing movement towards a pedestrian campus, partially to deal with increased traffic from pedestrian students, especially near the new Academic Sciences Building.

Movement has been made to block The Arboretum from Pokemon Go because the increased traffic is being damaging to the Arboretum as people trample plants and don't respect the purpose of the gardens.

#### **11:45 Megan Lucy: Little Library; Outstanding Staff Awards**

We have enough books to open a second location of the Little Free Library. If anyone is interested, they should contact Megan.

Outstanding Staff Award nominations are due by 3:00 on August 17.

11:55

**Closing Remarks**

Ideas for speakers/topics to cover in coming meetings - Andrea Higdon will speak at the next meeting.

More information to come on Volunteering for RoundUp! Staff Appreciation Day and food drive.

Date change for November meeting: Monday, November 7.

12 p.m.

Adjournment

Following the academic calendar, StaffLINKS will hold quarterly meetings on the second Tuesday of the months August, November, February, and May.

Upcoming 2016-2017 meetings:

- November 7, 2016 (Monday)
- February 14, 2017
- May 9, 2017
- August 8, 2017