

MINUTES
Staff Senate Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2006
12noon-1:30pm Lear Auditorium

Departments represented: Advancement, Architecture, Arts & Sciences, Chancellor's Office, Humanities, IT Services, Library, Natural Science

The Minutes from the December 13, 2005 Staff Senate meeting were read, approved and seconded.

Chair Brian Raymond introduced the first guest speaker, Joe Veryser, Interim Head of the Architecture Department and Lawrence Tech's architect. Mr. Veryser gave a concise, yet detailed description of the environmentally-friendly aspects of the Taubman Student Services Center. Some of the points covered were:

- To the traditional "green" roof combination of corrugated metal, drywall, insulation, roof membrane and sod, the Taubman Center has an additional 4" of sod and 4" of insulation, and a special irrigation system (a prerequisite for the LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] Silver certification)
- Multiple tests were done to ensure the roof will be leak-proof
- IRMA (Inverted Roof Membrane Assembly) was used – an improved design over the regular green roof membrane
- With normal rainfall, 50% of the water will be absorbed by the roof, the runoff will go into a 10,000 gallon underground cistern to be used as "gray" water in the flushing of toilets
- Taubman Center lighting will be on sensors with astronomical and automatic timers, with a 3-minute variance per day to adjust for seasonal lighting needs
- The geothermal system of the center was the most complex aspect, with 88 wells sunk 300 feet through five ground layers
- Polyethylene tubing inserted into the well will provide the transfer of water; heating and cooling will be effected through a series of pumps and fans
- A special "bent knife" material of volcanic ash was used for the tile field
- A series of 1,700 sensors controls the opening and closing of the DDC (Direct Digital Control system)
- LTU will be renting the well system from DTE for 30 years – after which time, LTU will own the system
- The \$48,000 yearly fee will continue for the duration of the 30-year period, whereas the price of natural gas is expected rise; this will save LTU significant money in the future
- A system of weirs, tile fields and planted long-rooted grasses will prevent 60% of the rainwater from running into the Rouge River – a prerequisite stipulated by of the City of Southfield
- Upkeep of this weir and grass system will be maintenance intensive, but this is to be expected in a sustainable design

Mr. Veryser addressed the following issues from the staff members:

- Energy management (how heat and cooling are distributed among the rooms) – Joe responded that there probably wouldn't be a problem for the first two years, because the contract has a 24-hour online assistance stipulation. In the third year, we are on our own in system operation.
- Maintenance costs – costs will be higher, mostly due to the cleaning of the glass.
- Availability of a technician for building problems – our Facilities administrators are knowledgeable, but can't do it all themselves. At some point a technician may need to be added, or a contract entered into with some third party.

Charles Elder, the second guest speaker, briefly described the new CIMR (Center for Innovative Materials Research) building:

- The building cost is presently \$1.4million, with a projected cost of \$11.2 million by project end
- The CIMR building is primarily a facility for Dr. Grace's carbon fiber reinforced material research, with emphasis on armament testing
- It will be considered a U.S. Army research facility until 2009
- A large capacity furnace and a 25-ton crane are major features of the building

Charles was asked whether there was a plan for safety/hazard protection. He said that safety procedures are in place. These will be reevaluated as each new process is instituted.

The business part of the meeting included a short report by Marilyn Hotaling on the Community Outreach Committee's spring fundraiser possibility. The Susan Komen Cancer Fund, as well as other options, will be considered at their next meeting. Robin Harris talked briefly about the St. Patrick's Lunch to be held on Wednesday, March 15. The menu will include Irish stew-in-a-bread bowl. Inis-Ceol will provide traditional Irish music. Reminders will go out on March 2nd and 9th. This event will be for staff and administrators.

Vice-Chair Joyce McKissen presented January's Staff Member of the Month to Cathy Phillips, and February's to Marilyn Hotaling, both of the LTU Library. Both recipients received a certificate and a gift card to Borders's Books.

Brian mentioned that the Staff Senate is having a problem getting nominations to be submitted for the Staff Member of the Month, and asked everyone to mention it in their departments, and to keep some blank forms available and in sight. He also requested everyone to take Marburger Award forms for distribution in their departments.

The winner of the raffled Easter-themed basket was Mary Power of the Library. The basket was designed by Michelle Wareck.

The issue of the lack of sidewalk availability in Parking Lot C was again brought up. Brian will take this up with Harry Butler.

It was asked whether tours of the CIMR Building could be arranged. Charles Elder suggested that anyone wishing to do this could send an e-mail to him with the request.

Submitted by Marilyn Hotaling, Acting Secretary