




MEMORANDUM

**To:** Donna E. Shalala, President  
**From:** Richard L. Williamson   
Chair, Faculty Senate  
**Date:** April 19, 2013  
**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2012-38(D) – Faculty Senate Facilities and Planning  
Committee Report and Recommendations

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At its April 17, 2013 meeting, the Faculty Senate unanimously accepted the Faculty Senate Facilities and Planning Committee on Report and endorses the recommendations stated within the report.

The report and recommendations are enclosed.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

RW/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Joseph Natoli, Senior Vice President, Chief Finance Officer  
Larry Marbert, Vice President, Real Estate and Facilities  
Theresa L. Ashman, Associate Vice President and Controller  
Janet Gavarrete, Associate Vice President, Campus Planning  
Karen Beckett, University Registrar  
Richard Sobaram, Director Parking and Transportation; Chair, UBike Committee  
Ruth Rubi, Director, Business Operations  
Mitsunori Ogihara, Chair, Task Force for On-line Education  
Charlotte Rogers, Chair, Administrative Services Committee

## **2012-13 Facilities & Planning Committee Recommendations**

Deshratn Asthana, Marc Gellman, Rosa Maria Gonzalez Guarda, Alan Oscar Johnson, Joanna Lombard (c), Jill Ehrenreich May, Maria Galli Stampino

The Committee carried forward the work of 2011-12 to focus specifically on the leading issues for the Medical and Gables campuses, as well to address any new items that required Committee attention and action. The Committee has worked collaboratively with the University of Miami Department of Campus Planning and Development to review planned, in-progress, and work to be considered.

The Committee discussed current research addressing the impact of built environment on social and physical well-being, which is particularly relevant to both retention and productivity of students, staff and faculty. Based on this work, the 2012-13 Committee recommends the following:

### **1. Coordinate Faculty Club relocation with the Department of Campus Planning and Development.**

*Context: Senate leadership asked the Committee to review the potential relocation of the Faculty Club to the current Post Office at the north corner of the University Center. The Committee discussed pros --proximity to the University Center kitchens, potential for outdoor dining with current terrace area, and cons—further north of the Center, as well as an aspect that could be a plus or minus—high visibility in relation to the Starbucks. (September 2012)*

#### **Recommendation:**

The Committee concurred with the Administrative Service Committee recommendation and further recommends that the University of Miami Department of Campus Planning and Development coordinate with faculty and administration in the redesign of the current post office. The Faculty Club location should provide ease of access, daylight and views, the potential for outdoor dining, and a design that encourages interaction.

### **2 & 3. Develop Campus Streetscape & Walkability Plans**

Campus life depends on a safe and lively network of streets, sidewalks, courts, plazas and greens. These places are essential to the quality and character of the institution, and when planned appropriately, provide the framework for the serendipitous encounters that distinguish creative collaborations and research productivity. These recommendations address the urgent need for this fundamental first step toward the development of dynamic campus settings that support the academic, clinical and research vitality of the University.

### **2. Initiate a Miller School Streetscape Plan.**

*Context: The Committee met at the Miller School and on the Gables Campus with Janet Gavarrete, Associate Vice President, her team, and representatives of the Miller School to review progress on the City of Miami enhancements for NW 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The City's original sidewalk replacement project, now expanded into to a median project landscaped with Phoenix dactylifera (date palms), sleeves for future lighting, repositioning of signage out of pedestrian paths on the sidewalks, and lines for future irrigation will go out for bid soon, with construction estimated to start this summer. The Committee then focused on the importance, once 14<sup>th</sup> street is developed, of studying both 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> streets to enable greater campus life along the cross streets and weave the Life Science center into the heart of the Miller campus through a campus "main street" network. (March 2013)*

#### **Recommendation:**

The Facilities & Planning Committee strongly endorses the work of Campus Planning Development in the advocacy of 14th street enhancements and recommends the immediate development of a **Miller School Streetscape Plan** to extend the 14th street work into a complete network of campus walkability.

### 3. Initiate a Coral Gables Campus Walkability Plan.

*Context: The Committee met with Janet Gavarrete, Associate Vice President, Campus Planning and Development, and her team to review the linkage across the canal to enable University Village residents to connect to the center of the campus, current traffic calming interventions on Stanford and Merrick Drive, along with future plans to enhance the Billings walkway through a wider sidewalk, which led to a conversation on the longboard collision potential, and the specific marking for bike lanes. The Committee focused on the importance of clearly demarcated bike lanes in the streets and the distinction of UM as a walkable, bikable, interconnected network, and the need for a pedestrian- safety- first review of roads and walkways to assure decision-making that places the first priority on walkability and connectivity, as well as the role of food services in creating destinations across the campus to enhance student life. The Committee will participate in a joint meeting on April 11 with The Faculty Senate Administrative Services Committee to discuss these relationships. (March 2013)*

**Recommendation:**

The Facilities & Planning Committee strongly endorses the work of Campus Planning and Development and recommends the immediate development of a **Coral Gable Campus Walkability Plan**. This plan should include implementation of the Billings Walkway project, as well as the development of a pedestrian- safety- first review of roads and walkways to prioritize future projects.