



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Julio Frenk  
University President

**From:** Linda L. Neider  
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Neider', is written over the 'From:' field.

**Date:** April 22, 2021

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-80(D)- Faculty Senate Facilities and Planning Committee Annual Report and Recommendations

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The Faculty Senate, at its April 21, 2021 meeting, had no objections to accepting the Faculty Senate Facilities and Planning Committee Annual Report and recommendations.

The report and recommendation are enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

LLN/rh/va

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Cristina Favretto, Librarian Professor, Committee Chair

## Faculty Senate Facilities and Planning Committee 2020-2021 Report

### Committee Members:

Esber Andiroglu (Engineering)  
Massimiliano Galeazzi (Arts & Sciences)  
Jean-Francois Lejeune (Architecture)  
Nicholas Mignanelli (Law)\*  
John Reazer (Miller School of Medicine)  
Thomas Robinson (Law)  
Gilda Santana (University Libraries)  
Sarah Slinger (Law)  
Vera Spika (University Libraries)  
Cristina Favretto (Chair – University Libraries)

*\*Prof. Mignanelli left the University in November for another job this year*

### The Committee charge from Section B4.8 of the Faculty Manual:

The Facilities and Planning Committee reviews with the administration all aspects of master planning, erection or renovation of facilities, landscape alteration and aesthetic enhancement on the several campuses of the University and makes such recommendations as may be appropriate. The Facilities and Planning Committee of the University of Miami Faculty Senate held regular monthly meetings throughout the 2019-2020 academic year. The Committee was Chaired through the Fall 2019 semester by Professor Antonio Nanni. When Prof. Nanni had to step down from chairing Cristina Favretto (Libraries) was asked to be Interim Chair of the group. Therefore, these notes will encompass mostly the events of the Spring 2020 semester, although previous activities will be noted.

### Events of note in this academic year:

This was an exceptional year for our University and consequently for the Committee, bounded by the strictures imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee meetings were all virtual, held on the Zoom platform. It must be noted that said meetings occurred seamlessly thanks to the excellent work of the Faculty Senate Office staff, whose excellent organizational and communication skills and professionalism allowed us to function not only in “emergency” mode but to flourish under these adverse circumstances. The FS Office Staff should be commended not only for their excellent work ethic and professionalism, but for their good cheer and patience throughout the year.

Much of the work of the Committee this year focused on honing in on areas of concern that had emerged in previous years, but also envisioning the Facilities issues concomitant with a post-pandemic environment. Ongoing concerns included:

- Ensuring transparency and visibility regarding building practices and projects on our three campuses, and in particular, the Campus Master Plan
- Stewardship and creative, inclusive nurturing of the green environments on our campuses
- Addressing issues of space/storage for University Libraries and lab spaces for Arts & Sciences
- Responding to questions, ideas, and concerns of our students, faculty, and staff regarding both our built and natural environments

To move these matters of discussion forward in a positive and productive way, and to ensure that stakeholder voices were being heard, the Committee invited a series of guest participants to our meetings, including:

- Members of student government (Jose Fernandez Calvo and Tarika Sankar, GSA, Rahul Babu, UG Student Gov., Ted Delcima, Student Bar Association, Leah Colucci, MSOM Student Government)
- University Architect Juan Rodriguez-Vela
- Green U Director Teddy l'Houttellier
- Faculty Senate President Dr. Linda Neider and Dr. JoNel Newman
- Vice President of Facilities and Planning Jessica Brumley, Dr. Jackie Travisano, and Provost Jeffery Duerk (combined meeting with Faculty Senate Administrative Services Committee)
- Susannah Troner, Patricia Gomez, and James Murley (Miami Dade County Office of Resilience) to discuss the “Building Efficiency 305” project, which works towards the goal of reducing carbon emissions in new building projects in Miami Dade

Members of the Committee also attended a presentation by students from the CAE Senior Design (CAE 403) class on future improvement ideas for the Arboretum as one of the significant green spaces at the Coral Gables Campus

### **Recommendations for GWC:**

1. It would make sense for this Committee to include a member of the University’s Facilities Tea, who could speak from professional experience to our concerns and issues. This member would also be a good conduit for these ideas, concerns, issues, and suggestions to the University’s Administration. This would require a change to the Faculty Manual, including a proposal to the Senate and a vote by members.
2. If possible, we would like to add a Faculty member from the RSMAS campus, so that all three campuses are represented on the Committee.
3. We would like for at least one member of the Facilities and Planning Committee to be included in at least one meeting per year of the campus Master Planning group. This is to ensure transparency and accountability to our mutual communications –this member would be in attendance primarily as a conduit of information and to bring forward questions from the Committee.

*Respectfully submitted by Cristina Favretto, Facilities and Planning Committee Chair – March 30, 2021.*