

Committee on Priorities and Resources  
Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2020

In attendance: Professor Javier Corrales, chair; Professor Andrew Dole; Professor Jill Miller; Library Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper Susan Bradley; Provost and Dean of the Faculty Catherine Epstein, *ex officio*; Assistant Director of Athletics Kelly Mannix; Chief Human Resources Officer Maria-Judith Rodriguez, *ex officio*; Sydney Ireland '23

Not in attendance: Professor Monica Ringer; Director of Financial Planning Thomas Dwyer, *ex officio*; Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Kevin Weinman, *ex officio*; Brooke Harrington '22

Guest: Jim Brassord, Chief of Campus Operations

The meeting came to order at 8:35 am.

Proceedings

1. Jim presented an update to the annual Sightlines campus facilities stewardship report. Sightlines is a facilities consultant that advises Amherst College on capital strategy to ensure the condition of the facilities portfolio is optimally preserved and enhanced.
  - a. The Sightlines model for facilities capital investment strategies predicts the level of capital funding necessary, based on replacement value of the buildings and the expected life of buildings and components.
  - b. Replacement value of facilities on campus is almost \$1 billion.
  - c. The college capital budgeting process has been enhanced in recent years to better meet the annual facility “keep up costs” as well as the investment recommended by Sightlines. Capital age has decreased by 24 years through investment in building renovations.
  - d. In comparison to peer institutions, taking into account both the annual “keep up” budget allocation and the beneficial impact of renovation projects, the existing space investment is greater on average than our peer institutions. Yet current operating expenses are \$.29/GSF, or \$644k less than inflation over the past ten years.
  - e. The “Net Asset Value” (NAV) of AC buildings is the highest of our peer group. This rating indicates that over the past twenty years, the college has made strides in enhancing its facilities and reducing the backlog of deferred maintenance.  
NAV is calculated as: the replacement value minus building needs, divided by the replacement value.
2. In other discussion, Facilities is working to improve response time on calls and work orders.
3. CPR approved the minutes from the November 5 meeting.

Adjourned 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
S Hegarty