Introduction

The University of Florida is currently considering renovating and expanding the former University President’s House (now referred to as “University House”) for use as a conference and meeting facility. Related to this work, there may be an opportunity to incorporate faculty support and amenity spaces into the project.

Paul Davenport, Chair of UF Faculty Senate, has created an ad hoc Faculty Club Committee to investigate the possible incorporation of a “Faculty Club” within the planned conference and meeting facility. Committee members include Dr. Davenport, Karen Whalen (Chair of Welfare Council), Amanda House (Senate Member of Welfare Council), Chris Hass, and Bradley Waiters (Chair of Infrastructure Council).

Proposed Uses and Amenities

- **Meal Service**
  - Meal service space should be able to accommodate up to 75-100. This may be too conservative if this becomes a nice destination space.
  - Seating may include smaller tables with moveable chairs, seating 2-4 (or perhaps 6) for small, informal gatherings. Some larger tables or options to reconfigure tables to seat larger groups of 8 or more would be good. Consider some round tables where “there is always room for one more.”
  - Coffee/tea/hot water available throughout the day
  - Food/snacks available throughout the day
  - Bar with beer and wine (pay for service basis); operational service hours TBD

- **Breakout Areas**
  - Some small/quiet
  - Cubicles
  - Privacy rooms for new mothers

- **Technology / Media**
  - Wireless internet access important
  - Easy access to outlets, especially near tables/work areas/seating
  - Incorporate several televisions with news and sports throughout to facility. These may be heavily used on Gator game days.

- **Operations**
  - Possible operational days may be Monday through Friday with the option for Saturday Game Days
  - Possible operational hours: 11:00 am - 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm – 11:00 pm
  - Anticipated peak hours: 11:30 am -2:30 pm and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm (when traffic congestion decreases)
Additional Considerations

- Facility should accommodate special events and allow rental for weddings/receptions; this will help with the budget model
- Consider possible second floor option above new meeting rooms, as it may provide nice overlook of the property
- New on-site parking will be required, as well as improved pedestrian circulation from the site across SW 2nd Avenue to campus (and parking)

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Next steps will be to consider possibilities for incorporating the Faculty Club either within the original house or in new construction that may be built on the site.

- The Keen Center became a special event space
- Other Faculty clubs have apartments - housing?
- Minimum coffee, tea, massages
- Spousal & emeritus privilege