

Office of the University Building Official

2019-2020 Annual Report



Benjamin Hays, PE, LEED AP, CBO

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Background

The Office of the University Building Official (OUBO) was created as part of the 2006 Higher Education Restructuring Act. It is charged with administering the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC) for all construction activities on the University's Central Grounds, the Health System, the College at Wise, Blandly Farm, and other UVA properties around the Commonwealth.

Mission: The Office of the University Building Official promotes a high quality, healthy, safe, and accessible built environment for the University community by way of our technical expertise and our professional, customer-focused, and timely service.

Vision: We strive to be a valued and creative partner in the ongoing physical development of the University.



Our Year

By the close of FY20 the world, and especially our world at UVA, had changed dramatically. Students left the University in March. Our team transitioned to remote work for many of our duties. Uncertainty was prevalent. Notwithstanding these shifts, building design and construction at the University continued. Our numbers reflect one of our busiest years.

Between July 2019 and June 2020 OUBO:

Reviewed

1149 design documents

Issued

227 building permits

Performed

1040 inspections

and Evaluated

309 occupancy requests

for ongoing design and construction of

*\$1.943 billion**

**from Facilities Management annual report*



Highlights

Beyond the numbers, the Office of the University Building Official supports the goals and initiatives in the University's 2030 Strategic Plan. For FY20 this included hiring and developing new staff, cultivating community and research initiatives by supporting project schedules, and collaborating with teams around the University in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



This year Our Office:

Supported project schedules by completing

99% of reviews on time

Embodied fiscal stewardship by preserving

service rates for the 4th year

Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by

collaborating across the University

Welcomed four new team members as former staff

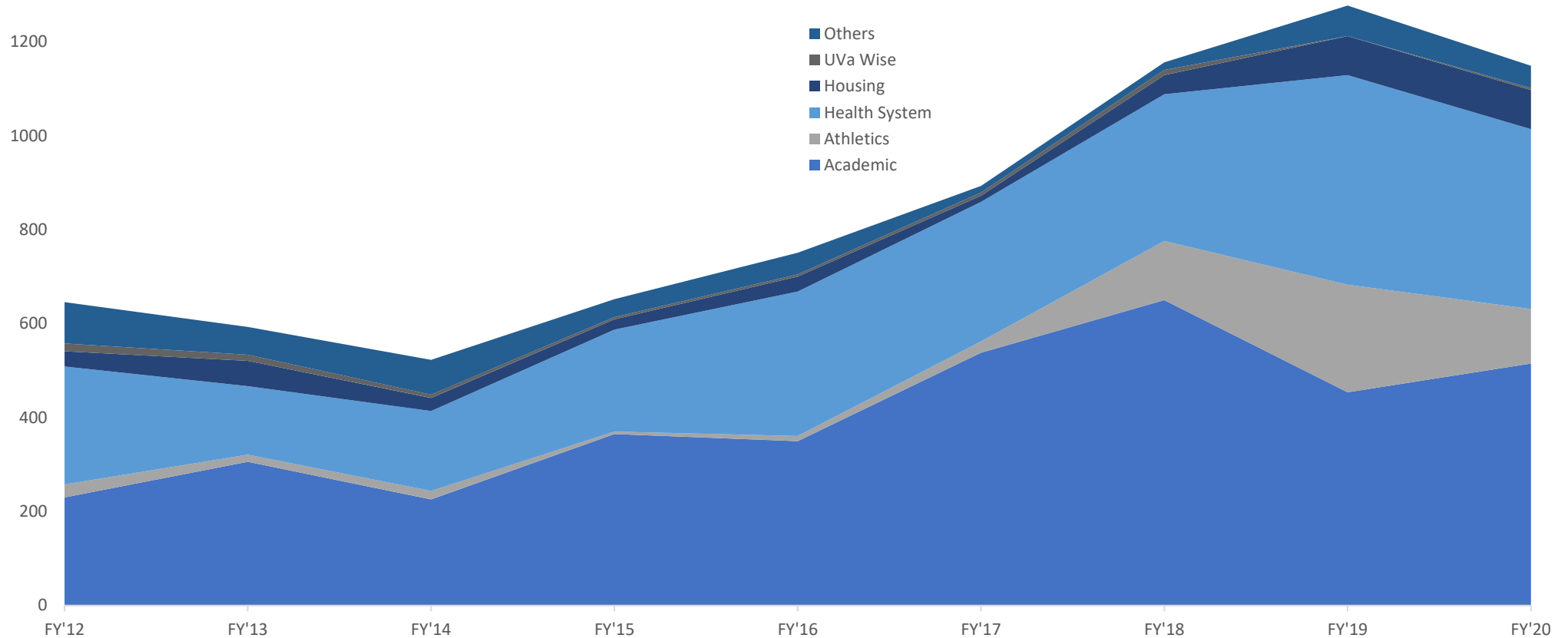
retired or took promotions

Created team liaison roles to

increase internal redundancy

Reviewing Design Documents

We collaborate with Facilities' project managers, design architects and engineers, and University schools and units to ensure complex designs meet the equally complex requirements of various codes. This inherently iterative process allows us to share our technical expertise and institutional knowledge throughout the design process.



Issuing Permits

While most building permits that we issue are for new construction or renovation work, we frequently permit early-site or structural work to help streamline the design and construction processes. This year, we issued our first early Mechanical-Electrical permit on the Ivy Mountain project (pictured below) to help the team capture market pricing earlier in the process.



Inspecting Construction

OUBO often begins inspecting construction projects before the building's design is complete. This enables projects to proceed more rapidly, which in turn supports our customers' goals. Responding to feedback from last year's survey, we hired a combination inspector - allowing for multiple inspections to be completed by one certified individual. We also continued efforts to cross training existing staff.



Evaluating Occupancy

Many occupancy evaluations we conduct enable users to occupy portions of the building while other parts are still under construction. At the Old Ivy Office building (shown below), several phased occupancies were requested by the project team working for the UVA Foundation. While these evaluations are often more challenging than a full-building turnover, they afford the University greater flexibility.



Our Value to the University

Our Mission to promote "a high quality, healthy, safe, and accessible built environment for the University community by way of our local technical expertise and our professional, customer-focused, and timely service" means that we strive to bring value to the University while promoting code-compliance...even amid a global pandemic. We were able to quickly transition to remote work (pictured below).

In response to COVID-19 we

Met with the US Army Corps and Facilities Management

to evaluate alternate care sites

Collaborated with the UVA Hospital

to create "negative air" rooms

Worked across the University

to develop space safety standards

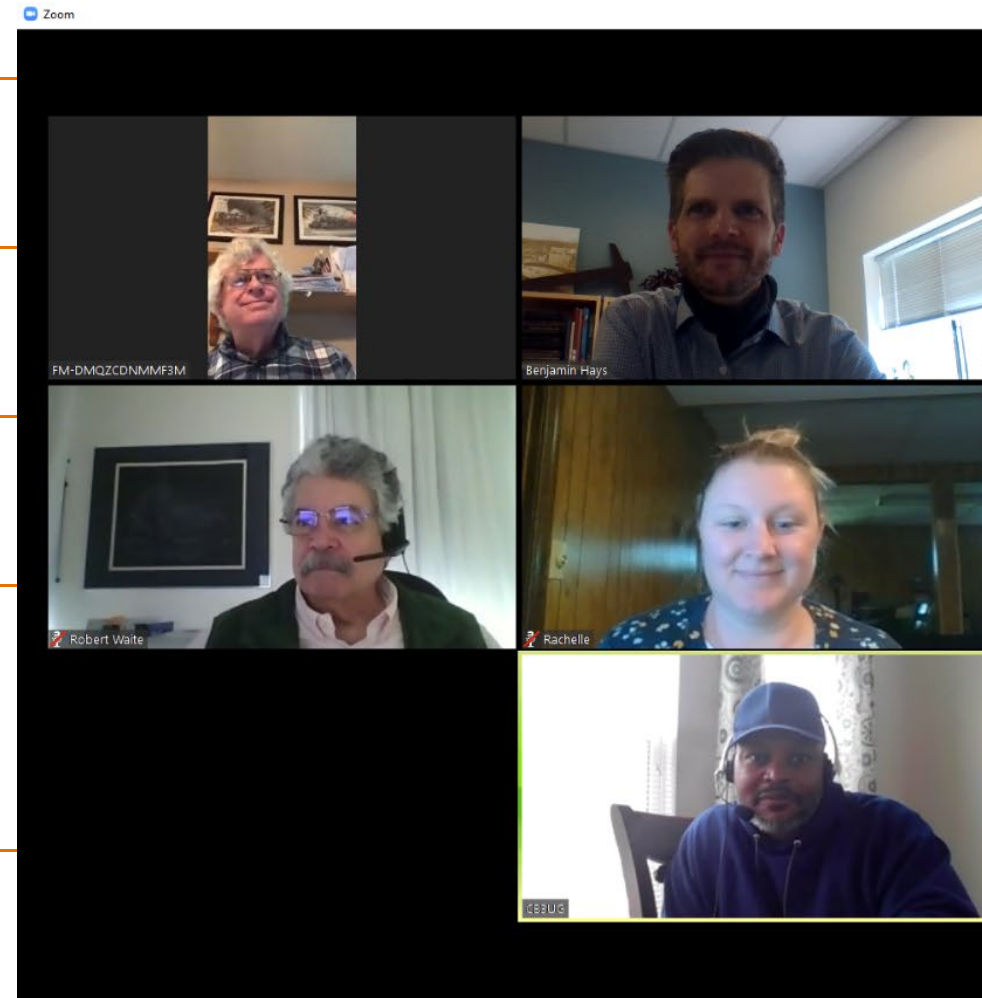
Assisted schools, units, and auxiliaries

to evaluate their buildings

as students return to Grounds

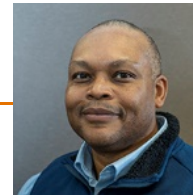
Researched Code requirements for the storage of

large quantities of hand sanitizer!



Our Team

OUBO welcomed four new team members this year as several former staff retired and took promotions around the University. With a team of ten, this represented a significant change for our long-stable group! We were fortunate to find incredible individuals for each position and have continued to build culture and have fun in our regular Zoom team meetings. This year our office welcomed:



Senior Fire-Protection Engineer

Chris Barfield



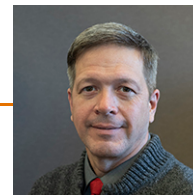
Combination Inspector

Darin Clements



Associate Fire-Protection Engineer

Rachelle Hermes



Senior Electrical Engineer

David Jones, PE