



UW-LA CROSSE ACADEMIC BUILDING
DSF #05I3O
RA #1213
November 17, 2006

MEETING NOTES – CLASSROOM FORUM

MEETING START TIME: 1:00 p.m.

MEETING END TIME: 3:00 p.m.

NOTES:

1. Matt Lewis opened the forum with a review of project status.
 - Program started over six years ago and has recently been refined.
 - The focus of the forum is on the classroom and it's associated learning spaces.
 - Introduced the team bringing the project to reality – River Architects and Paulien & Associates.

2. Val Schute of River Architects reviewed the focus of the forum and reviewed the overall planning process. “Many of us think of concrete as the foundation of a building. As a team, we look at the Program as being the foundation. We need to define the needs.”

3. John Bengston of Paulien & Associates described what role his firm plays in the planning process. His focus on higher education facilities and world travel put him in a unique position to develop the Program Statement. “We’ve analyzed the campus’s existing classroom utilization and put together an educational program for the New Academic Building.”

4. John Bengston presented a variety of cutting-edge classroom designs from across the country. The images shown had different room layouts, furniture designs, technology, etc. All of these items will play a role in the New Academic Building.

5. The forum consisted of students and faculty, with the majority being students. Discussion items mentioned in the forum include:
 - Classrooms being general access type rooms, not departmental
 - Flexible seating for ease of rearrangement
 - Size range of classrooms will vary
 - Accessibility and universal access were stressed
 - Distance Education style technology with interactive television gives the ability for off campus students to attend class
 - U-shaped seating in a larger setting is popular
 - Desks with larger surface area
 - Sustainable materials
 - Natural light within the classrooms
 - Exterior study areas
 - The library offers a place for collaborative work sessions, but is too quiet for groups
 - Comfortable chairs that are upholstered and flexible

- Seating that will allow for small/round groups
 - Personal belongings are usually stored on the floor, either under or beside the chair
 - Some rooms should be set up for a traditional format, without advanced technology
 - Have studies been conducted showing what type of environments are best for retaining information?
 - Entrances at the back of the room
 - Study areas on the roof with gardens
 - Teaching podiums act as a barrier and obstruct sight lines
 - Ease of rearrangement for group presentations
 - Auditorium style seating with a higher projection screen allows for better presentations
 - Group study areas should have privacy, ability to talk out loud, technology, power to plug in laptops, etc. General access printers in these areas can be misused.
 - Less than ½ of the students carry a laptop to class
 - What is the future of the laptop? Handheld devices becoming more popular.
 - Acoustics, sound quality, wireless microphones, etc. are important design ingredients
 - Laptop usage within the classroom is a distraction. Web surfing, emailing, etc. should be done outside of the classroom.
 - Rooms should have color, not just off-white walls
 - Display areas within the building for student artwork should be included in public areas
6. A feedback survey was distributed for students and faculty to fill out. 19 surveys were collected and the results are as follows:

Position at UW-L:

- Students (47%)
- Professor (11%)
- Administration (16%)
- Other (21%)

Classroom on campus that is most effective to teach/learn:

- Wing 104
- CFA Printshop
- Wing 6
- Wimberly 206
- Wimberly 210
- Health Science 2066

Amenities:

- Chalkboards (11%)
- Views to exterior (32%)
- Whiteboards (74%)
- Entry at back of room (53%)
- Interactive workstations (58%)
- Entry at front of room (42%)
- Other (16%)

Furnishings:

- Flexible seating (79%)
- Table and chair seating (47%)
- Fixed auditorium seating (16%)
- Fixed table seating (11%)
- Tablet armchair seating (16%)
- Other (11%)

Technology:

- Multiple light settings (84%)
- Projection screen (95%)
- Connectivity to projection screen (79%)
- Internet access (84%)
- Teaching podium (63%)
- Room darkening (53%)

Where do students conduct collaborative worksessions?

- Library (53%)
- Computer labs (37%)
- Home (16%)
- Other (63%)

Would a space be utilized if provided on campus where students and/or faculty could work together on projects and have access to technology?

- Yes (74%)
- No (0%)

Additional comments, questions, etc.:

- Classrooms should have a quiet heating and cooling system
- Classrooms should have temperature controls
- Building security after hours
- Cyber café area
- Colors to help the rooms feel comfortable
- Give windows to office space first, then common areas, then classrooms
- Lighting and equipment controls from touch screens
- Ability to control equipment away from the podium
- Chairs and benches in hallways
- Quality sound systems
- Wireless technology
- Ability to draw heat out of teaching podiums and put it into mechanical systems

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Meeting Notes by: Michael J. Adler, Associate AIA

Note: This constitutes our understanding of the issues presented. Contact River Architects, Inc. via phone at (608) 785-2217, or e-mail m.adler@river-architects.com if there are any discrepancies.

- c. Matt Lewis/UWL
- Larry Earll/DSF
- Maura Donnelly/UWSA
- Kate Sullivan/UWSA
- Val Schute/River Architects
- John Bengston/Paulien & Associates

- NO STERILE WALLS
- ACOUSTICAL ENHANCEMENT
 - ROUNG PROF
- ROOF TOP POTENTIAL
- EXPLORE LEVEL CHANGES
- STUDENT ART DISPLAY OPPORTUNITIES
 - EXPLORE MULTIPLE GROUP EXCHANGES

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GROUP STUDY SPACE?

- ✓ PRIVACY
- ✓ ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY
- ✓ MIN. TECH...
 - POWER
 - WIRELESS
- ✓ PARTITION DIVIDER IS OK / ESTABLISHES SOME SEPERATION
- ✓ RESERVATION VS. STAKE OUT
- ✓ COLOR INFLUENCE

✓ DON'T FORGET "TRADITIONAL"
CR

✓ DISTRIBUTION OF WHITEBOARDS

✓ WINDOWS IN SOME/SMALLER
CLASSROOMS

✓ STUDY AREA ON ROOF

✓ TECHNICAL CONTROL AWAY
FROM PODIUM

- ✓ CHAIR STORAGE FOR GEAR
- ✓ LARGER DESKS
- ✓ ~~TIERED~~/U-SHAPED
- ✓ ECOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY
 - NATURAL + ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING
- ✓ GROUP STUDY AREAS
 - 2 to 5 / up to 10
- ✓ UPHOLSTERED, COMFORTABLE CHAIRS
- ✓ U-SHAPE w/ RECONFIGURABLE POTENTIAL (EASILY)
- ✓ SMALL GROUPINGS (i.e. Tables)

- EASY REARRANGEMENT OF FURNISHING/BUT KEEP EFFECTIVENESS
- UNIVERSAL ACCESS
- INTERACTIVE LEARNING
✓ DISTANCE ED