



PLANNING COMMITTEE CONCEPT REVIEW MEETING/April 7, 2008

MEETING START TIME: 12:00 p.m.
MEETING END TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Bill Colclough Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Bob Hetzel Vice Chancellor - Administration & Finance
Matt Lewis Director of Campus Planning and Facilities Management
Ron Rada Emeritus Faculty Member
Billy Clow College of Liberal Studies – Interim Associate Dean
Karen McLean College of Science & Health – Interim Dean
Karla Stanek Career Services
Paula Knudson Student Development/Academic Services – Dean
Elana Bantle Student / Environmental Council
Bjorn Bergman Student / Environmental Council
Matt Groshek Student / Environmental Council
Larry Earll DSF / Project Manager
Valentine J. Schute, Jr. River Architects
Mike Adler River Architects
Bill Patek JJR

MEETING NOTES:

1. The following information was distributed at the meeting for review and discussion:
 - a. Meeting Agenda
 - b. Planning Committee Concept Review Meeting Notes dated February 11, 2008.
 - c. 11x17 Drawings: Site Plan, Proposed Elevation Revisions
2. Matt Lewis opened the meeting with a brief overview of the developments since the February 11th meeting. The project was delayed for short period, the 35% documents were given an extension, and the University has requested that the project pursue LEED Silver certification.
3. Val Schute of River Architects reviewed the meeting notes from the February 11th Concept Review Meeting. Notes were approved.
3. Val Schute explained the impact of the Universities request for LEED certification. To this point in the schedule, the project has been designed around DSF Sustainability Guidelines while also keeping track of the potential LEED credits that align with the DSF Guidelines. To obtain LEED Silver, a few credits have been reassessed and are now being pursued for the project. Val also explained that the credits are not guaranteed and that extras are ideal.

4. The design team has provided costs associated with a solar domestic hot water system. This has been approved by DSF and the University and will be incorporated into the project.
5. The current energy model being compiled by Focus on Energy is producing a 35% energy savings. Further refinement is needed in order to complete the model. Focus on Energy would like to present the outcome of the model at a future meeting.
6. Bjorn Bergman noted that he is happy to see UW-La Crosse pursuing LEED Silver certification for the project. The decision shows that UW-L is a sustainable campus and it will set the tone for future projects. Bjorn asked if this will be the first LEED project in the City of La Crosse. Val Schute commented that there are others in the city that are working towards LEED certification and that the academic building won't know it's outcome until 6 months after the building is open for occupancy.
7. Val Schute reviewed the project schedule. The end date has not changed, and at this point any delay in the project will hurt the schedule.
8. Bill Patek of JJR reviewed the current site development plans with the committee. Highlights that Bill addressed included:
 - a) The existing sidewalk at the northwest corner will be redone in order to provide an accessible entrance without stairs at that location.
 - b) Dumpsters will be located near the loading dock under the covered area.
 - c) Water will be collected on the roof and piped to rain gardens located the north and south sides of the building.
 - d) Smaller shrubs will be incorporated at the bicycle parking.
 - e) The rain garden area will not have railings around the edge. The rain gardens will be bowl shaped with the deeper areas near the center. This will promote interaction with the rain gardens. A curb will be incorporated for safety.
 - f) Impervious paving will be used near the building in order to keep the water away from the foundations.
 - g) The trees shown in the courtyard will be large enough to provide shade, but not overwhelm the building.
 - h) Plant materials will be incorporated into the rain gardens in lieu of large rocks.
 - i) Every path is a minimum of 8 feet wide. Those that are part of vehicle access are wider.
 - j) Site furnishings need further evaluation.
 - k) Existing fire lanes are not being disrupted.
9. Val Schute reviewed the current plans which show removing classrooms on the third floor to reduce square footage as a means of meeting budget. Other areas reduced in size include the fourth floor mechanical room and omitting the third floor studies over the porches. Discussion took place regarding the area reductions and the following comments were made:
 - a) Bill Colclough asked if the removal of the five classrooms has an impact on the mix analysis campus wide. Are these rooms needed in order to meet the needs of the campus when this building opens?
 - b) Larry Earll noted that everyone's goal is to get the five classrooms as part of the project.

- c) Elana Bantle noted that student traffic to the third floor would be compromised if the southwest stair is removed at the third floor.
 - d) Bob Hetzel asked if other options have been looked at. Items such as a/v equipment, materials, and maybe two of the five classrooms need to be quantified.
 - e) Bob Hetzel asked if the committee would prefer bricks and mortar or a/v equipment?
 - f) Karen McLean asked if technology can be relocated from other rooms on campus to help reduce the a/v budget for the academic building.
 - g) Billy Clow asked if anyone has run the class schedule for the building to determine if the loss of five classrooms has an impact. Billy also noted that classrooms need to be outfitted with new technology, not used equipment from other rooms on campus. If equipment was relocated from existing spaces, then those spaces would need new equipment.
 - h) Bill Colclough suggested putting the a/v equipment on the alternate bid list rather than the five classrooms. He also suggested adding the third floor studies back into the project as well.
10. Val Schute presented revised elevations. Val felt that the elevations needed to be re-evaluated when the studies were removed above the entrance porches. The original design incorporated glass “links” that flanked either side of the porches. When the studies were removed, the glass link didn’t work as well. This led to elevation development that incorporated new features into the building façade, including different window rhythms, brick pilasters, and larger stone copings at the main entry. The elevations were discussed and the following comments were made:
- a) Matt Lewis added that the porches look “tacked on” without the third floor studies above them. Matt asked if something more ornamental could be added to the porches to tie them to the architecture of the front entrance.
 - b) Bob Hetzel questioned the window pattern used at the entrances.
 - c) Committee members liked the heavy cornice at the main entrance as well as the proposed windows shown at the north wall of the fourth floor.
11. Val gave an update on the Classroom Committee’s meeting on April 3rd. At that meeting, a current equipment list was presented and items were then omitted to meet the current a/v budget.
12. Billy Clow commented that there is a distance education room in Morris Hall that gets used three times a year. Bill Colclough added that there was a room in Wimberly Hall that was upgraded to include distance education and has since been converted back to a traditional classroom without distance education.
13. Larry Earll noted that once the SBC/BOR approves the project to construct and a more accurate construction cost estimate is available, the scope of the project will be reevaluated based upon available funding.
14. Elana Bantle introduced Matt Groshek to the committee. Matt, along with Jenn Oneill will be taking Elana and Bjorn’s place on the committee after graduation.

15. The next meeting will be scheduled after the 35% Design Report submittal to DSF.

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. All in attendance
Matt Lewis/UWL
Larry Earll/DSF
Maura Donnelly/UWSA
Alex Bargout/Arnold & O'Sheridan, Inc.
Nate Novak/JJR, LLC
Mike Bohlmann/PSJ Engineering, Inc.
Ian Griffiths/Berners-Schoeber Associates, Inc.
Phil Roeglin/Professional Audio Designs, Inc.
Dennis Johnson/Ayres Associates, Inc.
Michael Thomason/Thomason Clark Corp.
Scott Leonard/Professional Audio Design