

DESIGN COMMITTEE KICK-OFF MEETING NOTES / SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

MEETING START TIME: 3:30 p.m.
MEETING END TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

Scott Schumacher	Planning & Construction	sschumacher@uwlax.edu
Robert Allen	Mathematics	rallen@uwlax.edu
Mike Abler	Biology	mabler@uwlax.edu
Kris Rolfhus	Chemistry	krolfhus@uwlax.edu
Cynthia Berlin	Geography & Earth Science	cberlin@uwlax.edu
Eric Gansen	Physics	egansen@uwlax.edu

Design Team

Val Schute	River Architects	v.schute@river-architects.com
Mike Adler	River Architects	m.adler@river-architects.com

NOTES:

1. Val Schute opened the meeting with a review of the meeting agenda.
2. The project contacts were reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:
 - a. Scott Schumacher will be the primary contact for UW-La Crosse.
 - b. Mike Adler will be the primary contact for the design team.
 - c. Jim Viviano will be the contact person from The Sextant Group in lieu of Todd Kreps as indicated in the presentation.
3. Val Schute provided a recap of the efforts for Phase 2 that were completed in Phase 1. The following items were noted:
 - a. The 2011 Pre-Design Study identified an H-shaped plan configuration comprised of two “bar” forms with a connecting link and west-facing courtyard. Programming and conceptual design efforts were included in Phase 1 to help influence the design and massing of the overall building.
 - b. Design work was included for the overall Campus Mall. Design services for Phase 1 addressed the northern end of the Mall along with Badger Street from Wimberley Hall to East Avenue. Phase 2 will address the middle portion of the Mall.
 - c. While an interior planning concept had been conceptually developed as part of Phase 1, Val noted that this concept could completely change as the process unfolds.
4. The 10% Concept Report deliverable was reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:
 - a. Report will be very similar in scope and content as Phase 1.
5. A recap of the programming efforts included in Phase 1 was reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:

- a. Four work sessions were held with the departments to identify and verify the programming needs of the departments. Classrooms, offices, office support, and laboratory spaces were itemized and used to identify the spaces to be included in Phases 1 and 2.
6. The design team presented a list of pending issues to be reviewed. The following items were noted:
 - a. Classroom programming will need to be re-evaluated. The numbers included in the current program are based on data collected in 2006 and carried through into the 2011 Pre-Design Study and into Phase 1. Classroom usage was analyzed as part of the Campus-wide Academic Space Needs Analysis in 2015 and it was determined at that time that the large lecture halls currently in Cowley Hall may not be needed. Science faculty have requested these spaces be retained due to their specialized needs to effectively provide the demonstrations that are needed for the science programs (lab benches, high ceilings, prep rooms, etc.). The type of classroom has also not yet been identified. Active learning arrangements were discussed in Phase 1 but were never finalized. If an active learning arrangement is necessary, the square foot allocation for each student will need to be increased.
 - b. Scott Schumacher noted that faculty offices will be enclosed office arrangements.
7. The design team presented a preliminary schedule and work plan for review and discussion. The following items were noted:
 - a. The design team has proposed a compressed schedule to meet a December 1, 2017 deliverable of a preliminary cost estimate. This deliverable will be in the form of an executive summary followed by the draft 10% Concept Report with a final submittal scheduled in April 2018.
 - b. Cathy Weiss of UW-System had commented during the Executive Committee meeting held on August 31, 2017, that UW-System will be implementing a new classroom and laboratory utilization requirement in September 2017. Classroom weekly room hours are expected to go from 35 hours currently to 40 hours while laboratories are expected to go from 24 hours to 30 hours. Bob Hetzel advised the design team to use the new utilization hours being proposed.
 - c. Val Schute commented on how the analysis of the classroom utilization could impact the schedule. Decisions will need to be made in order to address campus need vs. departmental requirement, plus the style of teaching needs to be vetted among the departments. Active learning arrangements are not common on the UW-L campus and if desired, need to be carefully planned.
 - d. Mike Abler commented that the Biology Department would like to see two tiered lecture halls on the first floor and two active learning spaces on the second floor.
 - e. Scott Schumacher noted that it is likely that not all the existing classrooms in Cowley Hall will be replicated in Phase 2.
 - f. A tour of the University of Minnesota Science Teaching and Student Services Building would be beneficial to the discussion of active learning.
8. Kris Rolfhus asked if student flow had been looked at in Phase 1 to provide a better understanding of where the large lecture halls, entrances, lobbies, etc. would be located in both phases. Pedestrian flow through the building in cold weather is very likely and should be accommodated along the circulation route within the building.
9. Mike Abler provided the following comments regarding the concept design and planning of Phase 2. The following items were noted:
 - a. The Specimen Display area needs to be carefully defined and a prep room needs to be provided.
 - b. Flip the Botany Lab and Herbarium so that the Herbarium is closer to the elevator.
 - c. A biological safety cabinet room is needed.
 - d. Greenhouse size to be verified.

- e. There is a good adjacency between the Science Methods Lab and Collaborative Learning area currently depicted on the fourth floor.
10. Val Schute noted that the design team understands the desire for every faculty office to have access to a window and view but the quantity of offices will make this a challenge. The narrow building mass will provide potential for borrowed light opportunities deep into the building.

Meeting Notes by: River Architects

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.