river ARCHITECTS

ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOM MEETING NOTES

PROJECT: University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
PRAIRIE SPRINGS SCIENCE CENTER – PHASE II
La Crosse, WI

DFD PROJECT NO: 19G1J
RA PROECT NO: 1290E

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2021

MEETING TIME: 11:00am-1:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Organization	Email
Cathy Weiss	UW-System Administration	cweiss@uwsa.edu
Scott Schumacher	UW-La Crosse	sschumacher@uwlax.edu
Mike Abler	UW-La Crosse	mabler@uwlax.edu
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Michael Hoffman	UW-La Crosse	mhoffman@uwlax.edu
Colin Belby	UW-La Crosse	cbelby@uwlax.edu
Todd Weaver	UW-La Crosse	tweaver@uwlax.edu
Jennifer Doktor	UW-La Crosse	jdocktor@uwlax.edu
Val Schute	River Architects	v.schute@river-architects.com
Mike Adler	River Architects	m.adler@river-architects.com
Jeff Kuhse	River Architects	j.kuhse@river-architects.com
Emma Cuciurean-Zapan	SmithGroup	Emma.Cuciurean-Zapan@smithgroup.com
Krista Raver	Ring & DuChateau	kraver@ringdu.com
Jim Viviano	NV5	James.Viviano@nv5.com
Jesse Fishman	NV5	Jesse.Fishman@nv5.com

OVERALL PLAN REVIEW:

1. The overall plans of each floor level were presented. The following items were noted:
    a. No comments.

DESIGN REVIEW:

1. General:
    a. Rooms to be sized for 84 seats as designed.

2. Furniture:

    a. Flexibility is important to all departments.
    b. Not all rooms would have to be setup the same on day 1. Perhaps one is fully equipped with technology and the other two have less.

3. Writable Surfaces:
    a. Department representatives noted that there is more desire for writable surfaces than for technology at this time.
    b. Writable tables would be nice but whiteboards on walls are acceptable.
    c. Scott noted that writable tables have not been used in classroom settings on campus. Tables in the Student Union and Wittich Hall have writable surfaces.
    d. Scott commented that if the tables have writable surfaces, then where do you put things you're working on? What about laptops, books, etc.?
    e. In addition to whiteboards on the walls, hanging whiteboards at each group table would be acceptable.
    f. Example project images from Georgia Institute of Technology includes markerboards that slide on rails to allow access to digital displays recessed into the wall. Department representatives were very interested in this concept.
    g. Solutions used for pandemic cleaning on surfaces that may be writable are not an issue per Scott.

4. Digital Displays:
    a. Department representatives noted that there is less interest in monitors located at the tables. Preference would be to have them located on the walls.
    b. Interest was expressed in a combination monitor and markerboard cart for the tables that aren't adjacent to a wall. Monitors could be a future addition if necessary. Carts would not need to be turned during class as students would write on the back side just like they get up to write on the wall.

5. Power & Data:
    a. Floor box connections required at tables not located adjacent to a wall. Tables and carts would not be moved often.
    b. Provide power and data connections at walls. Comment noted about cords between walls and tables and potential tripping hazard.
    c. Additional floor boxes needed in the middle of the room for multiple various locations.

6. Content Sharing:
    a. Minor interest expressed in content sharing at this time. Departments more interested in students working at writable surfaces.
    b. Provisions to be made for providing the capability for content sharing from the teaching podium to the student monitors.
    c. Mersive Solstice being utilized on campus. NV5 to review current technology offerings.

7. Mock Setup:
    a. Could a room on campus be temporarily outfitted with equipment to simulate various degrees of active learning? Scott noted the Great Hall in Cleary Center could accommodate this. Mike Abler commented that some instructors may have an interest in moving their class to this location for a week to try things out. Scott to review.
    b. The active learning space in Wittich Hall is being used but is for groups of 4 and includes monitor at each group.

8. Equipment:
    a. AV equipment to be located in casework in the corner of the room.

9. Lighting:
   a. General lighting for test taking, project work, and other classroom activities. Dimming capabilities required.
   b. Scott noted that two or three levels of dimming should be provided.
   c. Krista noted that daylighting control will be required for this space.
10. Demonstration Bench:
    a. Jennifer asked if a demonstration bench will be provided? Scott commented that a rolling demonstration table could be used similar to the other classrooms.
    b. Doors to be wide enough to accommodate 32″ wide table.

11. A copy of the presentations and additional notes can be found here: https://river-architects.sharefile.com/d-s52aff86002ca4a048b2be072c12ca3f1

SCHEDULE & NEXT STEPS:

1. Design team to revise plans based on discussions held.

2. Next meeting to be scheduled in 3 to 4 weeks to review specifics.

ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY		
1	Mersive Soltice technology capabilities to be reviewed.	NV5
2	Mock room setup to be reviewed.	UWL

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.