

## DESIGN COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

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

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

**MEETING DATE:** October 4, 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 11:00am-1:30pm

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### ATTENDANCE:

Bob Hetzel	UW-La Crosse	<a href="mailto:bhetzel@uwlax.edu">bhetzel@uwlax.edu</a>
Scott Schumacher	UW-La Crosse	<a href="mailto:sschumacher@uwlax.edu">sschumacher@uwlax.edu</a>
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### SPRING 2021 RECAP

1. A review of where the design was in May 2021 was presented and discussed. Floor plans, exterior and interior design items were presented. No comments noted.
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## FALL 2021 RECAP

1. A review of the latest design was presented to the Design Committee. The following items were noted:
  - a. Level 0:
    - Mike Abler expressed concern over the loss of storage space that will happen with Room 008 being renovated into lab space. Currently, River Studies has a number of items stored in this room as well as within Cowley Hall.
    - Scott noted that it will be critical for all departments and Facilities to look at the storage inventory required.
    - Prior to the meeting, review comments were provided by Physics expressing concern with the location of the Shops in relation to the existing labs and soon-to-be renovated Physics research lab. Further discussion needed.
  - b. Level 1:
    - East entrance revisions reviewed and discussed. Vivarium elevator now located directly off the service court to provide easy access.
  - c. Levels 2-4:
    - Office locations currently indicated by color coding for reference only. Further discussion needed on final locations. Scott noted that there are Grad Assistant and Teaching Assistant offices that are included in the plans that need to be identified. Extra offices are included in the plans that also need to be identified.
  - d. Equipment:
    - Lab equipment selections needed as soon as possible in order for the design work to continue. Engineering of the various systems are on hold until this information is provided.
  - e. CS Engineering Lab & Shops:
    - Layout and location updates made since meeting with users in May.
  - f. Rooftop Observatory:
    - Operable roof has been found to be cost-prohibitive item and will not be included in the project at this time. Other strategies for telescope storage and mounting to be reviewed and discussed with user group.
  - g. Greenhouse:
    - Design team has contacted other greenhouse vendors regarding glazing systems and other design specifics. Greenhouse design put on hold until additional conversation is held with user group.
  - h. Active Learning Classrooms:
    - Reviewed and discussed ceiling material to be used at sloped ceiling along the north side of the classrooms. Wood or metal is the current design intent. Design team to review acoustic performance of the chosen material along with future access to area above the ceiling.
  - i. Exterior Design:
    - Current exterior design was presented. Design team noted development of glazing and shading strategies along with the re-design of the exterior expression of the Active Learning Classrooms.
  - j. Site Design:
    - Current site design was presented. No comments noted.
  - k. Interior Design:
    - Emma reviewed the overall design strategy currently being used for the interiors. Flooring and ceiling materials were reviewed along with color usage strategies to highlight various functions, similar to Phase 1.

- Mike Abler noted a concern about noise transfer from large open areas spilling into adjacent classrooms.
  - Eric Gansen noted that room darkening is needed at the 150-seat lecture halls for presentations related to the various outreach programs.
  - East hallway on level 1 provides opportunities for displays.
  - Design intent is to provide glass in classroom doors only when sidelights are not provided. Solid doors to be used in conjunction with sidelights.
  - Faculty Offices:
    1. Balancing privacy, function, etc.
    2. Eric Gansen asked about standing desks. Scott noted that UWL has a process for requesting and providing standing desks.
    3. Mike Abler noted that the clear glass at the bottom panel may not function if storage is provided at this location in the office.
    4. Bob commented on the university's commitment to Title IX compliance.
  - Student input needed on the collaboration spaces. Mike Abler advised reviewing what's being utilized by students in Phase 1.
  - Robert Allen commented on the amount of blue coloring and if there will be a true distinguishing between functions if there is a dominant wall color in the building. Mike Abler added that perhaps wood is incorporated into the walls or furniture similar to Phase 1.
  - Eric Gansen asked if additional seats could be provided at the collaboration zone where the writing surface is provided? This would allow small group discussion with 4 or more students.
  - Scott commented that further discussion is needed regarding the quantity of monitors provided at the collaboration areas when the building opens. Scott noted there may be more interest in writing surfaces at this time and there could be infrastructure available for future monitors.
  - Tony Sanderfoot asked if there is a way to incorporate an area near the department office/reception area for fliers, bulletin boards, etc. Scott suggested a possible digital solution also could be provided. Perhaps an area within the entrance alcove within the hallway could be an option for this function.
  - Video walls reviewed and discussed. Additional discussion needed regarding content and who the target audience might be at these locations.
  - Museum display opportunities were reviewed and discussed. Scott noted that the design should not include excessive display areas that won't be filled when the building opens. It is recommended that various areas remain open and allow for future display cases to be added.
  - Eric Gansen asked if there are any opportunities for student clubs to display items? Currently, the first floor of Cowley Hall has a display of the various science programs and clubs.
  - Office locations were discussed. Colin Belby expressed concern regarding the locations illustrated in the plans for the geography offices and noted that these spaces must be located next to one another. Scott noted that discussion is needed with the Dean to evaluate office location assignments, including Teaching Assistants, Grad Assistants, future faculty, etc.
2. A copy of the presentation and additional notes can be found here: <https://river-architects.sharefile.com/d-sc3a8ff849baf4743846f3524e38aefa0>
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**SCHEDULE:**

1. The project schedule was reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:
  - a. Bob provided an overview of the schedule as it relates to the state budgeting process. Work is underway for developing the 23-25 state budget. Bob noted that there a number of projects in the UW-System that are eager for funding approvals. Cathy commented that a bid date between October and December is ideal. Project is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in the spring of 2024 with completion in the summer of 2026.
  - b. Upcoming meetings with user groups will focus on validating the development of the science-specific spaces with future meetings focusing on the specifics.

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ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY		
1	Equipment selections and specifications to SharePoint.	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](mailto:m.adler@river-architects.com) if there are any discrepancies.*