

## GEOGRAPHY & EARTH SCIENCE 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:** January 27, 2021

**MEETING TIME:** 1:00pm-3:00pm

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### ATTENDANCE:

Cathy Weiss	UW-System Administration	<a href="mailto:cweiss@uwsa.edu">cweiss@uwsa.edu</a>
Scott Schumacher	UW-La Crosse	<a href="mailto:sschumacher@uwlax.edu">sschumacher@uwlax.edu</a>
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Jim Viviano	NV5	<a href="mailto:James.Viviano@nv5.com">James.Viviano@nv5.com</a>

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### PROJECT VISION RECAP:

1. Student-Centered
  2. Collaborative
  3. Face-Forward
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### PROGRAM REVIEW:

1. Geography & Earth Science Department
  - a. Added Departmental Meeting Room.
  - b. Added Dry Lab Research for 4 PI's.

- c. Added GIS Lab Support Space.
  - d. Resizing to match lab planning module.
  - e. Student Workstations enlarged.
  - f. Overall delta: +1,541 ASF.
  - g. No other modifications or revisions requested.
2. Adjacencies
    - a. Locate as many offices on one floor as possible.
    - b. Private offices adjacent to shared departmental spaces (Reception, ADA, Work Room, etc.)
3. Classrooms
    - a. Increased 74-seat active learning classroom to 84 seats.
    - b. Added (1) one 84-seat active learning classrooms.
    - c. Increased 80-seat classrooms to 100 seats.
    - d. Changed 150-seat fixed theater style classrooms to fixed tables and movable chairs.
    - e. Overall delta: +10,500 ASF
    - f. Adjacencies – near student collaboration spaces.
4. Misc. Instructional Support
    - a. Recategorized Student Organization Space.
    - b. Recategorized Faculty Resource Centers.
    - c. Renamed Maker Space to CS Engineering Lab.
    - d. Resizing to match lab planning module.
    - e. Removed (1) extra Science Ed Support Space.
    - f. Enlarged Science Ed Lab.
    - g. Overall delta: -194 ASF.

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**LINK:**

1. The link between phases 1 and 2 was reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:
  - a. "Social Center"
  - b. Survey to be sent to Design Committee
  - c. Colin – connection between floors?
  - d. Colin – link is a place for shared spaces, collaboration areas, indoor/outdoor meeting space, etc.

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**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES:**

1. The departmental offices were reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:
  - a. Illustrations depicted are generic and not meant to show final design ideas.
  - b. Coty clarified the DFD Sustainable Design requirement for 50% glazing at interior wall of offices/space along the exterior. Hallway-facing offices would not be required to have 50% glazed area.
  - c. Coty noted the desire for a distribution of collaboration spaces throughout.
  - d. Coty noted there are a number of options for treating the collaboration areas through various means of technology, writing surfaces, etc.

- e. Glazing required at all offices for security reasons.
  - f. Scott noted that UWL Administration is open to looking at the various options and will review the merits of each option.
  - g. Scott noted that Option 2 could be less distracting in how the offices are arranged. Coty added how students often wait in the hallway.
  - h. Scott noted that new furnishings will be provided as part of the project. Further discussion will happen at a later time.
  - i. Scott noted how the amount of glazing at the interior wall of the exterior offices is a requirement while the interior offices would likely not include as much glass.
  - j. Colin – consistency of glazing type among offices? Scott – likely there would some level of consistency for the offices.
  - k. Colin – noted of the faculty asked so far, all have been in favor of Option 2. More equal, more welcoming, etc. Concerns about the long corridors of Option 1.
  - l. Gargi – Option 2 provides more opportunities to demonstrate things to students in a collaborative environment.
  - m. Colin – communication across the hall more viable in Option 2.
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#### **CLASSROOMS:**

- 1. The classrooms were reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:
  - a. Cowley Hall 140 & 156
    - i. Largest sections in Geography are 90 students currently. Most sections are closer to 50 and the rest are less than 25.
    - ii. Colin commented that there is a preference for a full-sized desk rather than a table-arm chair.
    - iii. Greg noted that the current design intent is moving to fixed tables and movable chairs.
    - iv. Colin noted the Geography department does not teach in these spaces.
    - v. Colin noted that he does not care for the 'deep' classrooms, likes the wider, half-moon shaped seating design
    - vi. Gargi commented that as a student, she did not care for the old-school large lecture hall design, wider, half-moon shaped seating design is more welcoming.
    - vii. Colin noted the ability to write on small whiteboard and display on larger display is nice; CB prefers to be in the middle of the room when teaching.
    - viii. Gargi likes to walk around the room when teaching; prefer to look towards student when writing - MS Surface Pro or iPad.
    - ix. Colin does not care for 'Smartboards' as an instruction tool.
    - x. Steve noted that whiteboards are good, harder to teach instructors how to use newer technology.
    - xi. Niti – currently teaches 30-35 student class sizes.
    - xii. Mike A – current Program includes (2) 40-seat, (2) 50-seat, (3) 84-seat ALC, (2) 100, (2) 150, tiered spaces are planned to accommodate 100 and 150 students
    - xiii. Colin noted the desire to have lecture capture in all classrooms with ability to capture student interaction
  - b. Cowley Hall 103, 151, and 215
    - i. Colin noted that he does not care for these types of rooms.
  - c. Writing Surface
    - i. Simultaneous use of writing surface and digital displays is necessary.

- ii. Colin commented that having the ability to write on a screen and then having it projected digitally to a larger screen would be a good approach.
- iii. Steve Fulton noted that some faculty may have difficulty with the technology and the use of a digital writing surface.
- d. Displays
  - i. Two displays seem sufficient to Colin.
  - ii. Colin noted the SMART boards in the GIS labs isn't as effective.
- e. Remote/Virtual Learning
  - i. Lecture capture capability important in all spaces per Colin.

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**ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOMS:**

1. The active learning classrooms were reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:
  - a. Colin noted that many courses are taught currently because of the facilities they are taught in. If they had an active learning classroom, they may find that it works well.
  - b. Gargi C – mainly teaches GIS classes, a need for flexibility in classrooms; courses are very tech heavy.

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**DEPARTMENTAL SPACES + TECHNOLOGY:**

1. The departmental spaces programmed for Phase 2 were reviewed and discussed. The following items were noted:
  - a. Gargi commented that she likes the active learning setup for GIS courses.
  - b. Niti noted that most GIS work would be individual students at computer.
  - c. Colin commented how a space with fixed computers at the edge with tables and chairs at the middle may be an option. Colin to take department faculty to Wittich to tour a comparable space that may fit their needs.
  - d. High-end desktop computers with dual monitors needed for each student in the GIS labs. (not sure I heard this right)
  - e. Niti commented that UWL already has an Augmented Realty sandbox; having a VR space would be nice; courses utilize a lot of 3D imagery and large data sets; maybe a large visualization wall; 4k or higher resolution needed for room display; robust Network needed for large file bandwidth requirements.
  - f. Colin commented that the classrooms and GIS labs needs full lecture and camera capture capabilities; desire for doc cam and laptop inputs; teaching stations to have 2 monitors to mimic both projected images; AC Power and hard-wired data jacks.
  - g. Niti M commented that on the desire for the GIS labs to include space at the front of the room for demonstrations.
  - h. Colin is interested in exploring new ideas for the learning spaces.
  - i. Camera desired with the Mediasite Capture in the instructional environments.
  - j. Need an HDMI cable for laptop in addition to the document camera HDMI cable.
  - k. Office style printers needed in the GIS labs.
  - l. Teaching stations should have dual monitors to mimic the dual-screen format.
  - m. Ability for students to plug in for power and display sharing necessary.
  - n. Open desktop space is important adjacent to the computer workstation. Keyboard trays, computer holders, monitor arms, etc.
  - o. Open space for demonstration (drone assembly and setup example) in the GIS labs.
  - p. Technology is needed in the dry research labs. Similar systems and capabilities as the GIS labs. Semi-private area for faculty is needed because it is shared space.

**OPEN ISSUES:**

1. Currently no open issues.
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*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.*