

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of UWAC  
Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
In-Person Meeting

**Architectural Commission**

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X	Renee Cheng, Chair	Dean, College of Built Environments	Voting
X	AnnMarie Borys, Vice Chair	Associate Professor, College of Built Environments	Voting
X	Linda Jewell	Partner, Freeman & Jewell	Voting
X	Andrea Leers	Principal, Leers Wienzapfel Associates	Voting
X	Cathy Simon	Design Principal	Voting
X	John Syvertsen	Chairman, Board of Regents, American Architectural Foundation	Voting
X	Edwin Harris	Principal & Co-Founder, EVOKE	Voting
X	Bobbie Koch	Student Representative, Architecture	Voting
	Juan Valenzuela	Student Representative, Architecture	Voting
X	Steve Tatge	Associate Vice President, UW Facilities (Interim)	Ex Officio
X	Lou Cariello	Vice President, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Kristine Kenney	University Landscape Architect, UW Facilities	Ex Officio

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Minutes by Laura Salish, Executive Assistant to the Director of Campus Architecture & Planning

**Call to Order**

The Chair of the Architectural Commission and Dean of the College of Built Environments, Renee Cheng, called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Past Minutes and Current Agenda**

The January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and current agenda were approved.

**CoEng Interdisciplinary Engineering Building**

Jennifer Reynolds - UWF Project Manager

Design Progress Review

Kabri Lehrman Schmid, Morgan May - Hensel Phelps

Billie Faircloth, David Feaster, Stephen Kieran - KT

Phoebe Bogert, Dylan Morgan - PLACE

Quick review of IEB Project Goals

- Meet a small portion of the CoEng growth projections
- The building will be an important part of the on-campus student experience and centralized space for Engineering envisioned as a “home base” or “engineering central”
- Commitment to providing support to a full range of engineering disciplines and project-based learning
- Silo-free learning environment

Project & Permitting Schedule

- Actively acquiring structural and foundation permits. Working through August on design

Next steps

- Building exterior element articulation has changed a bit, will discuss mostly in June meeting
- Rooftop mechanical enclosure massing and material investigation

## Site Design

- The east-west slope of 30 feet and exceptional trees are critical to the character of the site (inaccessible)
  - Trees/grading/access
  - Inaccessible
  - Stitching into existing conditions
- The north-south slope of 30 feet and exceptional trees are critical to the character of the site (inaccessible)
  - Much more accessible
  - Stitching into future needs (mid slope path, campus connectivity)
- Stevens Way Access Point for entry
  - Portal design into portal plaza to integrate slope
- Jefferson Entry: working with a very steep area, created curb environment that allows for pedestrian, ride share access, etc.
- Grove Court contexts, east slope path and south court—trees are living above the path of travel
- Symbiotic relationship with University Club with existing stairs, creating new accessible entrance
- North Edge of Mid-Slope Path: working with grade and stairs harmoniously with the current design established by University Club
- Woodland grove character – native & adaptive landscape with season interest & structure

## Interior Design

Landing spot—welcome desk, working with newer students, public, semiprivate and private spaces available.

3D virtual tour!

Range of glazing types on windows so that the building ties in, seeing across the whole building

### Envelope Design Approach

- Masonry/brick, detailing, window alignment, composition, accentuate vertical
- Trade partner concerns about availability and cost of some design details
- Brick:
  - Fields of patterning: distributed, localized, reflective
  - Source & color, dimension, coursing, constructability and craft
- Windows
  - Logic, constructability, glazing, cost, size, operability, placement, carbon impact
  - Next meeting to be more informed by trade partners

## Comments

- Column could become too relevant to the design of the building. How much column is too much?
- Decision behind brick? Balancing cost and workflow, as beautiful as the patterns around it and doesn't compete.
  - Cannot do paint by numbers approach.
- What pattern studies of the brick are you exploring?
- Scales of patterns: masonry, drift lines, glazing, brick coursing & patterning
- Site studies—enjoy that its viewed schematically first, struck by the number of retaining walls that were integrated in order to maintain trees.
- Because we're engaging such a slope, challenge is to make a choice in regards to the envelope.
- Articulation of the richness and composition of the site is apparent in design
- T/L shape building is a smaller design than initially anticipated for the site but it works
- Approach to modulate the scale from the lower level, stitching.
- Think about further definition of the student space materially and otherwise, no height variation so may now to develop sense of separate places in other ways.
- Energy code, mechanical and electrical systems dialed in. Material impacts, 70% brick in part due to that being what can be reliably accessed.
- Lack of reliability on pricing and materials, doing best to not push project out.

- South volume of the building is discreet, vertical design which is different than other facings
- Perspectives—understand it spatially but want to understand it more with the materials
  - Not there yet but next UWAC meeting

### ICA Basketball Project Update

Harry Fuller - UWF Project Manager

Tamara Hartner & Bill Kent – Mortenson

Donna Barry & Francesley Sierra – Gensler

Laura Rose & Brian Bishop – Walker Macy

Chip Lydum & Erin O’Connell -- ICA

- Site Boundaries
  - Intentional journey creation, not currently a great recruitment space
  - Connection point consideration. Elevation 50, tape will be in place for visualization during tour.
  - Health and safety of the athletes, not having them going up and down additional stairs to gain access to their necessary spaces
  - Graded entries, pathway around building, opportunities to find a new front door at 36/37 elevation or 43 on south side
  - Every day vs game day and the population flow and fluctuation
  - Cornucopia of brickolage
- Site Program Opportunities
  - Parking
  - Walking promenade, working within existing structures
  - Outdoor, informal rooms
  - Grading 37/50/63
  - 24/7 Building, nighttime design quality can be interesting as well
  - Warmer structure than Husky stadium

### Comments:

- Connect the building entry to this space through the Graves Annex entry/canopy. Provides an address on Snohomish Lane as well as along the parking area. Shared entry that provides a proper entry into the site and eliminates/consolidates entries.
- Pretty close to solving the sectional relationships and elevation studies. The space between Nordstrom and new building needs to be and can be a wonderful place, with this as a wall of a room rather than the wall of a building. The scale of this as an open space creates a sense of arrival supplemented by a smaller scale gesture - possibly a site solution more than a building solution. Material of pedestrian experience is critical to making this a space.
- Grab the piece between Graves Annex and this building and make it grander in scale that identifies this as a unified place. Remove all the little moves. Jump in scale from Graves Annex addition while carrying across the datum of the existing canopy could bring a greater sense of porosity.
- Ability to see the structure from the outside, from the street could create a type of lantern at night while preserving the privacy of the courts.
- Any disadvantage to separate courts? Benefits of identity, doesn’t look like a massive high school gym.
- Like the notion of winding into the current canopy space for entry
  - Use this as your metric, part of the program space, feeling of “getting in” sooner
  - Place of arrival, iconic
- Comments on grading—raising mid grade to allow for long view while maintaining privacy of the courts
- Thinking of parking lot as more of a streetscape
- Studies being done around light with the stadium

### Site W27 Project Update

Shane Ruegamer – UW Project Manager  
Joe Reagan, Kyle Jardine, Doug Woodruff – Wexford  
Kathy Berg, Gene Sandoval, Eddie Kung, Brian – ZGF  
John Paul Jones – Jones & Jones

Goals of project have not changed but parameters have  
Halfway through schematic design refresh, will go into development next and construction documents by end of year.  
Board of Regents provided approval last week, first building as we look into ongoing campus design

#### Values

- Connection, Stewardship, collaboration
- Between UW, clear energy institute, Wexford and community

#### Context & Concept

- Measuring the façade strategies against a baseline building, for development
- First landmark of West Campus, needs to make a statement but simplification of overwrought design
- Ground floor is most important due to sight and impact
- One of the fundamental changes that has been made: increase footprint, zoning envelope change, increase of 16000 square feet and remove a floor

#### Landscape

- One of the fundamental changes that has been made: increase footprint, zoning envelope change, increase of 16000 square feet and remove a floor
- Burke Gilman Trail concept of pushing the bikes downhill and pulling the pedestrian path up toward the building entry
- Mid-block connection - circulation space or a place to gather?
- The forest edge - build off the existing strawberry trees - shape, prune, remove
- Wetlands to care for the storm water on site
- Stone meadow to moderate the steep slopes

#### Canopy

- Massing what we heard: Pedestrian ground levels, clear from up close and far away
- Weaving into context
  - Rendering illustrates that architecture will be higher than current view
- View availability and quality—southwest can see long range, west has mid range, rest of building has short views
- Campus building focus: vertical, transparency/light
- Environmental design:
  - Crenulated (not flat) façade strategy to mitigate direct sun exposure but provide light
  - Daylight & glare studies
  - Wall to floor ratio: 37.5%, window to wall ratio 40%
  - Angled windows provide much better views
  - Wanting to work with light responsive material to continue enhancing the crenulated effect, looking into how its effected by overcast light (60% of Seattle days)
- Natural breaks in building represented with horizontal breaking.

#### Understory

- What is the nature of this landscape area? Looking into.

#### Ground

- Still working with 35ft drop and entrances
- Porous and connected, blurring edge between street and building
- Series of experiences in the landscaping based on the grading, expanding space with the top bottom inversion on the building
- Transparency between indoor and outdoor spaces—creates an atrium effect
- Understanding the context of the urban scale and across to a space that is defined more by nature than by buildings.
- Midblock connections—using a lot of this graded space in order to create through space
- Solar access for plants and people, south lawn & rooftop
- Landscaping concept stewardship—useful habitat space (forest edge, wetlands, stone meadow)
- Looking for a responsible way to mitigate some of the water moving around space
- Rocks around Belvedere Park to separate space from Burke Gilman

### *Comments*

- Scientific approach says its there but not seeing the difference in the visual re: crenulation
- Some grading is needed in order to understand the layout with the shadow buildings, would like to see that more in the renderings for easy reference
- Project has improved a lot, projects can live and die on the ground floor. Upper level is SLU, the part that makes it a university building is ground floor. Has not been an easy process, has a ways to go but appreciate how receptive feedback team has been.
- Ground floor rollercoaster, doing best they can with a clunky footprint.
- Work on shaping the upper floors similarly to the ground floor, as best as possible considering the unknown future tenants of the building and what its function is. Keep pushing in the direction you're going.
- Appreciate feedback, a lot of the suggestions are part of the evolution.
- East wall is very long, dilemma of contemporary buildings—try to use the best, most elegant materials. Metal buildings are often short lived.
- Underside/canopy should modulate like the trees, similar to ground. Ground floor is very rich and that needs to be reflected in the ceiling.
- Like the concept of a "series of belvederes", the character of each of these should grow out of what is above, next to, and below and the solar orientation. Character that is derived from its location. Even the BG can be a belvedere that you are moving through. Identify where these are and how they're characterized. How a landscape moves vertically through the site.
- Mid-block transition, preference is to advance the terraced concept to create greater indoor/outdoor connectivity. During business hours the building will be fully accessible.
- Appreciate moving away from metaphor of indigenous culture reference. Interested to understand how the values will be expressed. Met with cultural center to identify potential ways to integrate activities. The university needs to help us identify who we're asking regarding meeting the shared values.
- Want people to walk through buiding during the days, trickier mitigating that issue at night.

### **UWMC Membrane**

Ibo Sezgin - UWF Project Manager

Concept Design

Marty Francois - UWMC

Eric Marsh – Skanska

Robert Smith – LMN

Lara Rose, Calder Gillin – Walker Macy

### Site Observations

- Significant amount of circulation types
- Barriers to a welcoming experience both visual and physical
- Disparity of uses

### Project Objectives

- Hoping to start the project this summer.
- 1000+ documented issues about the Membrane leakage
- ¼ of usable programmatic spaces are unusable due to continuing water issues: Radiation, cyclotron, Covid-19 labs, cath labs, recovery rooms, operating rooms are all the kinds of spaces that are suffering.

#### Project Background

- Existing conditions: persistent water ingress into critical clinic, laboratories and the emergency department
- Dilapidated landscape with inefficient flow for patient drop off and lack of accessible conditions
- Joint issues
- Projection Scope: waterproofing horizontal and vertical, landscaping and roadway, pedestrian canopy
- 94000 site demolition, 16,250 excavation, 14,600 shoring

#### District Analysis

- Barriers to a welcoming arrival, lots of stairs, difficult areas to navigate, unbalanced use of public space.
- Main entry has most amount of traffic and least amount of space, opposite of NW Court design and function
  - Plan to reverse these in response

#### Design Response

- Design attitude—need to make the hospital more inviting and make the NW Court area less open as its not available to the general public
- Starting at Pacific Street and working inward
- Design makes it easier and less confusing to arrive to the hospital, providing sense of safety from start
- Not a single accessible pedestrian route, proposing bringing 2 in where it makes sense within the landscaping
- Main entry--Raise canopy height, less foreboding design, more lighting and signage
- NW Court entrance, route is pulled back from the building, garden and eating areas (lunch terrace in sunniest spot), safety concerns also need to be addressed. Provides a lot of smaller group spaces, maximizes visual connections across courtyard instead of weird dead ends as it is now.
- Awareness of Mt. Tahoma vista, utilizing the landscape for inspiration
- Design language—berms, depth of soil for plants up against the structure, to create a more cohesive and desirable environment for professionals
- NE Pacific Streetscape—beginning to look at design and perception

#### Comments:

- Important where we put entrance, street signage and current setup is deeply confusing
- Is it distracting to have 2 driveways, too many options to get lost “not here, not here either, keep going”. Better signage is a must within the design
  - Some kind of substantial screening in the NW area?
- Team needs to consider the in between phases and if they will create additional chaos in an already difficult to navigate environment
- Walls up to building, should they reflect other campus design elements? Or is it separate because it’s a hospital? Being considered.
- Canopy—feels welcoming, working with signage team about color coding various parking areas (drop off, loading, etc). Like it having 2 parts, needs lighting, to be deeper, ensuring there’s lots of shelter, etc. Does there need to be more seating? Not necessarily, hard to see in rendering. Seating is not continuous but there is plenty.

#### Summary of Smaller Projects

- UWF Move
  - Gensler did a study last year, what does the future of work look like in a hybrid model? How do we support that?
    - Office is about the collaboration, heads down/focus work
    - Will use sensors on seating to see what gets used most
    - Younger generations having more difficulty without accessible onsite mentorship while colleagues who have established career are loving wfh

- College of Build Environments—just signed an agreement with Timberlake re: holistic use of spaces (Gould, Architecture, Sand Point, etc). Will be starting in autumn, due to student feedback of not being familiar with buildings between Covid and heating issues. Mostly space analysis at this point.
  - Current generation operates very differently, like spending time in common spaces. Less office oriented.

### **General Discussion**

ICA Basketball—questions about scale and location of entry, presenting again in June.

UWMC Membrane—shorter time frame, likely presenting in autumn meeting.

Site W27—heavy reliance on the façade parametric modeling, post rationalization of a concept, simplification of the floorplate was a disservice, view from the bridge needs to read legibly. Presenting again in June.

CoEng—look at Normal or larger brick, presenting again in June.

The next meeting will be held in person on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:15PM.**