

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of UWAC
Monday, June 14, 2021
Virtual – Zoom Meeting

Architectural Commission

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
X	Aubree Nichols	Student Representative, Architecture	Voting
X	Kristine Kenney	University Landscape Architect, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Steve Tatge	Associate Vice President, UW Facilities (Interim)	Ex Officio
X	Lou Cariello	Vice President, UW Facilities	Ex Officio

Minutes by Stephanie Parker, Executive Assistant to UWF Associate Vice President, Asset Management

Call to Order

The Chair of the Architectural Commission and Dean of the College of Built Environments, Renee Cheng, called the meeting to order and introduced new Commission member, Edwin Harris to the group.

Approval of Past Minutes and Current Agenda

The March 22nd, 2021 meeting minutes and current agenda were approved.

University and Project Update – Lou Cariello and Kristine Kenney

UW Bothell, Husky Village - Due to material cost, the team has switched from a wood exterior detail to a light-colored masonry.

Campus Projects Virtual Tour - Kristine gave a quick virtual tour/presentation with photos detailing recently completed and currently underway projects.

Recruitment and Department realignments - Lou updated the commission on the status of recruitment for the University Architect/AVP of Asset Management as well as recent reorganizations within the UWF Asset Management department.

- The AVP role, currently being managed by Steve Tatge, is in review and redevelopment working toward recruitment.
- The University Architect duties are currently being managed by Kristine Kenney. Duties and role development continue to be reviewed for this role as well, including reporting structure and role design.

Comments

- *The University Architect should be a full-time role. Contract work is not effective for this kind of crucial position. Consider a less senior individual, to allow for someone to establish themselves within the role.*
- *Enthusiasm shown on proposed reporting structure considerations for University/Campus Architect role.*
- *Appreciate the balance being placed on the University Architect and the Landscape Architect.*
 - o *ULAC and UWAC should again try to meet collaboratively.*
- *Ensure position description and title of UA is specific and deliberate to ensure we attract the right skillset and individual.*

UWMC Northwest Behavioral Health Teaching Facility

Jeannie Natta – UW Project Manager

Project Update

This project received full funding from the state legislature including additional funding, which will in part, transform 75 of 100 beds into long term critical care beds. Project budget now \$234M.

Exterior Expression, Landscape/Entry and Patient experience which were heavily commented on at last meeting, will be primarily focused on today.

Architectural Expression

- The team reviewed the evolution of the façade and building expression. The team reconsidered the massing and simplified the overall expression in the therapy area through a series of studies.
 - o The new design focuses on a series of vertical terracotta and glassy infill plains.
 - o Several variations of exterior patterning and panel design were reviewed with stakeholders.
 - A OneWall Unitized Façade System is being utilized to create the desired effect with paneling.
- Lobby/Dining Expression
 - o Introduced a warmer ceiling and vertical elements to frame the backdrop and stairs as you look in from the exterior.
 - The design of the dining and lobby ceiling should help mitigate acoustic concerns.
- Building Materiality
 - o The team reviewed existing building materiality throughout the campus and moved toward a general pallet which compliments existing buildings, while still establishing individuality.
- Behavioral Health Patient Unit
 - o Utilizing wood elements to help bring indoor the outdoor feeling.
- Therapy Terraces
 - o Material selections underway. Considering interlocking pavers and stone seating options in lighter color.
 - o Individual terraces will utilize transparent screen material for patient safety. No plantings will be used in these spaces at the request of care providers.
- Landscape Plan
 - o Drop off development is mostly finalized, and comfortably allows for up to 3 parked vehicles to queue in addition to circulation.
 - o The team reviewed individual plantings and elements specific to each area which included the berm garden, drop off area, canopy and exterior dining patio.
 - Berm garden, drop off area, and canopy provide the 3 main arrival elements.
 - Benches will be developed from reclaimed wood, fallen on UW campus.

- Entry Plaza and dining terrace materials and colors are in review and are close to a final selection.
- A brief animation of the current design elements was shown and provided a detailed visual experience of the development.

Comments

- *Why were the berm gardens mounded?*
 - *To allow for experiential view from both the street and the interior dining experience. The placement and spacing of the trees was intentional to create a more informal 360 experience.*
 - *No shrubs?*
 - *Grasses and lower maintenance plantings were requested by facilities.*
- *Reflection on expression of exterior well received. Good job on the redevelop.*
- *The therapy space variation of darks and lights is still being developed, to ensure a less checkerboard feel.*
- *What is being considered for the terracotta - patterning and texture? (Especially in relation to the OneWall paneling)*
 - *Trying to make the terracotta feel less shiny, and better absorbing of the light, to contrast to the glossy, glassy surfaces.*
 - *Encourage you to continue to look at textures, and articulation between the panels. The texture can easily be lost in mass scale.*
- *Ensure the overall beauty of the building and keep considering slight variation in color to keep from the texture being lost.*
- *The variation between colors and contrast feels about right in the overall expression.*
- *For the therapy wing, did you consider a slight offset for the terracotta panel? Will it have the same offset as the residential wing?*
 - *There is an offset in patterning that matches the residential wing currently.*
- *The expression shows a major improvement. Nice work.*
- *The contrast between the therapy wing and the residential wing, still seems jarringly different. A more integrated feeling is needed.*
 - *Look closely at the residential wing. Use the terracotta to the fullest extent, even variation in texture will help the building play differently in sun and shade.*
- *The corner of the therapy space could be stronger. It doesn't seem to follow the patterning and allow the façade to turn the corner in the way you would want.*
- *For the Therapy wing, related to turning the corner, is it possible the parapet detail is different there compared to termination at the sky for other facades?*
- *Don't let the terracotta façade become flat.*
- *The roof terrace – this will be the one view of greenery that the residential rooms have. Can this have more vertical elements – trees, etc.?*
 - *Clinicians advised that trees were not a good idea due to safety concerns.*
 - *The team will consider more shrubbery etc. in final planting decisions.*
- *Would a shift of greenery to the outside of the terrace allow interior rooms to better view the greenery?*
 - *Safety concerns require that greenery/shrubbery to be pulled back from screening.*
 - *Patients from each floor will be able to access this on a daily basis.*
- *The top canopy of the screen seems like an ideal bird hang out. Be sure to include bird repellent elements in your design, to keep from nesting/excrement build up etc.*
- *The canopy is a bronze color? What variation?*
 - *A darker variation is being considered, however the underside will be lighter and more reflective, and will include recessed lighting.*
- *Include lightning elements in the plantings as well, to ensure lightness even during dark months.*
- *Have the team review the CSE building and note how variation and paneling was utilized.*

UW Tacoma Milgard Hall

Shannon Thompson – UW Project Manager

Project Update

The project is getting ready to break ground at the end of June. Focus of today will be on concerns related to future site development, facade development and a more in-depth review of interior public spaces.

- Site Updates
 - C-Street entry development - Entry experiences will include stadium seating which creates a small plaza, and place for pause.
 - Prairie Line Trail (PLT) - Removed stadium stairs and utilized plantings to help frame the exterior space more subtly. New accessible ramp from PLT through to C-Street creates cross campus access as well as building access.
 - North corner - Driveway shifts closer to 21st street, which creates a better sidewalk slope and allows for more plantings and stairs to break up concrete corner of building.
- Future Site Development
 - The team showed how the current design could integrate with an adjacent building.
 - A new footprint for the adjacent site showed a potential for 13.7K site with 6 stories and approximately 73K GSF. Displayed design creates a U around science court and includes the 40ft required setback from current building.
- Façade Development
 - Building Elevations
 - Elevations now show rooftop mechanical elements.
 - Brick Façade
 - Brick coloration in review.
 - Looking at pallets on site in July before final recommendations selected.
 - Metal Panel Rain screen
 - Looking at combination of flat and corrugated panels to develop rain screen. Working toward finalization of selections.
 - Updated renderings to show brick wrapping fully around classrooms.
 - Include newer parapet details which incorporated downspouts.
 - Warm Wood interior elements clearly visible from curtain wall windows.
 - Detail of the brick façade now shows wrapping around stairwell opposite curtain wall from PLT view.
- Interior Spaces
 - Connector area has good ceiling height with exposed CLT and beams. Working to show off timber and wood in as many areas as possible.
 - Use of lighter colored glazing to reflect light.
 - Use of datum which offsets light gray bottom to white top.
 - A long lobby hopes to incorporate Timber history photos and place for pause.
 - In narrower halls - sitting spaces and wood elements combined with offsets of color.
 - HIPS spaces shown with interior windows and exposed wood elements.
 - 2nd floor connector space focuses on community gathering

Comments

- *Appreciate the future site study. An intelligent exploration and study that suggests good potential for the use of that site.*
- *Appreciate the variation in the height along the PLT.*

- *Articulating a linking zone as part of the current design is smart.*
- *Brick options – due to wider variation in brick color - Option B.*
 - *Is really important to view this on site ahead of selection.*
- *Prefer brick option A, which better capitalizes on the feel of the surrounding environment.*
 - *Showing and looking at a PNW module of brick variation vs standard module. This will likely be a strong element in color selection.*
 - *Extra important due to variation in NW weather, especially gray drab days.*
- *What colors are you considering for the panels and curtain wall elements?*
 - *Punched windows hope to be more muted darker tones, and the metal panel rain screens below windows will be a darker gray, to provide contrast. Looking at warmer/brownish gray.*
 - *Curtain wall has been shown consistently as lighter. Haven't tested currently with darker metals only with lighter/white metals.*
- *If you're going to express it, celebrate and embrace the downspouts.*
- *PLT – plantings are similar and consistent to prairie trail plantings.*
 - *Will C Street plantings go in a different directions?*
 - *Yes, C street will have more hardy urban plantings, versus the more grass centric trail elements.*
- *The additional study of the height did validate the 3 floors. Nice work.*
- *Interior timber - make sure the infill between the timber doesn't fall flat. Not just painted plaster and rubber trim.*
 - *Look at having more than just wood pilaster's coming down... In some of the niches and some of the solid panels...could that be wood paneling? Reserving the coloring from the interior classrooms.*
- *Appreciate the hidden spaces for student study, and the details with additional whiteboard and cork space elements for hanging items.*

UWB /CC STEM 4

Harry Fuller – UW Project Manager

Project Updates

The project just issued the 80% design set and is very close to a final design, with groundbreaking scheduled for early August, and full completion targeted in June 2023.

The team reviewed the project goals and advised that today's presentation will focus on Site, Public Spaces and the Finished Concept.

- **Site**
 - An evolution of the site plan from Feb 2021 to current was reviewed.
 - Changes include an expanded and more graceful approach to the crescent path - Moved the raingarden to the Northeast corner to better nest with existing plantings. Aldo redeveloped approach from north, with revised path.
 - From a landscape perspective, considered how to better connect to the master plan by stitching together the variety of landscape elements and strategy. Utilizing existing elements and melding in new elements to ensure a cohesive look without a hard edge.
- **Public Space**
 - Gathering spaces were centered/focused in areas which maximized daylight and create inviting warm experiences.
 - Current designs of feature walls include experiential maple panels, hosted along whitewall spaces throughout the building.

- Shared student space development was guided by student surveys, which prioritized study space over social space. Current social spaces are centered in the building near the lightwell, with individual study spaces near classrooms, and group study spaces near labs.
 - Pops of color being used to define student study spaces/gathering spaces.
 - The furniture designates the type of space.
- Finish Concept
- Drew color concepts abstractly from natural landscape elements (sky (blues), canopy (deep evergreens), understory (bright mossy greens), earth (golds))
 - For use in furniture, acoustic panels, glass boards, wall paneling, carpeting and flooring etc.

Two brief animations of the entries and interior experience showed the variety of seating spaces and elements as well as the see through elements that allowed the interior to peek through to the outside.

Comments

- *Will the lower portion of the grass triangle along the crescent at the crest place be cut off by foot traffic? Could it be pulled back? Or could a bench be put in place to help keep traffic from cutting the corner?*
 - *The grade change would create a need for a step.*
 - *Students/traffic will likely cut corners regardless of grade.*
- *For the acoustic panels, be careful about the visibility of the top of the panels as you travel up and down the stairs. Could be a dust collector.*
- *For maple panels, who is designing them? How would they be illuminated? How will the lighting work along the full panel? Consider a standoff projection to light the full length.*
 - *Designs elements will be drawn on STEM elements, with both institutions part of the design process.*
- *Is there a collaboration between the interior elements and the landscape design?*
 - *Yes, there has been much collaboration between the groups, weaving these elements all together.*
 - *The addition of texture as well as color is hoped to contribute to the atmosphere and the experience.*
- *The color strategy can be really fun. Watch out for making each floor distinct in its coloration. Some of the materials are only available in certain colors/patterns. Look for those early to ensure ability to coordinate.*
- *Students will study anywhere but they tend to gravitate toward dead ends/cul-de-sacs. Transition spaces/pass by spaces tend to be less desirable for study. Consider creating more perpendicular spaces. That are more separate in the hall spaces.*
- *Students will move around furniture, so make sure you allow for flexibility of mixing and matching seating area elements.*
- *The long tables at the overlook areas are wonderful. Brings a sense of community, and provides a ton of flexibility.*
- *Can the whiteboards run the full length of the wall? Why not make the whole wall writable?*
- *Evolution has come around well, seems like a much more livable and occupy-able space.*
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ICA Basketball & Health and High Performance (H2P)

Harry Fuller – UW Project Manager

Project Updates

Harry introduced the commission to the project background. The building, Hec Ed, supports several sports and regularly runs into space availability issues. The project was approved with the BOR in 2020, but was put on hold due to the pandemic. It was recently approved to move forward, although with a smaller total budget, now at \$50M.

Goals

- Provide 24/7 practice courts

- Renovate and expand Health and High performance
- Consolidate services
- Provide a cost-effective look and feel in alignment with recent capital projects

Overview

- Basketball training and Operations – This space provides a “home” for basketball training and operations, including dedicated practices courts, locker rooms, player lounges, coach offices, etc.
- H2P - Brings health and wellness services under one roof (training, mental health wellness, rehab, medical etc.

Site

- The site is centric within the athletic village, surround by the other major sports facilities.
- New building will be tucked behind Hec Ed at site of current Pavilion Pool.
 - o Pavilion pool was not deemed as historic façade which allows the current site to be viable for a new facility/building.
- Will be public facing but is designated for Student athletes.
- Site will navigate two elevations.

Interior

- Will include logo and husky signage and coloration.

Schedule

- Builder selected and moving forward with architect selection process, with Architect interviews at next UWAC meeting.
- Occupancy targeted for Dec. 2024.

Comments

- *Consider an architect firm that may not have sports facility experience, but could pull in a specialist/contractor with that expertise.*
- *Is the pool currently used?*
 - o *Very minimally. Additional lanes are being added to IMA pool which is currently in renovation.*
- *Will the building connect to the Hec Ed building?*
 - o *Depending on scope, will depend on how/if this allows us to connect.*
- *This project seems to be an infill, highly constrained project. Make sure you prioritize firms that are expert at tucking big concepts into tight spaces.*
- *There will be formulas that drive and influence almost everything within this building. Could be a real urban design opportunity on the exterior.*
- *What elements makes the Hec Ed building one of the best in the Pac 10?*
 - o *Provides an intimate, close up experience. Something from the golden era of basketball.*
- *Include more detail on the schedule to ensure you have recommendations submitted in appropriate time.*
 - o *Yes, a more detailed schedule is in final review and can definitely be distributed.*
- *Kristine will send out list of Architects and the developed RFP. RFQ should include:*
 - o *Really looking for a team that can fit an inflexible program into a constrained site.*
 - o *Help make the variety of surrounding buildings more cohesive.*
 - o *Consider the building as a recruitment tool for the department. Ensure a wow factor for students to draw in athletes.*
- *Budget and flow need to be clear when considering Architects.*
- *This building will become part of the athletic spine.*
 - o *This building could function as the pivot point.*
- *The public function – should this facility programming be expanded to include more public inclusive space?*

Meeting Development and Cadence – Renee, Kristine, Lou

Topics Discussed: In person meetings vs Zoom meetings and overall frequency, Membership and Term Limits/Rotation, and Integration with ULAC. Specifically:

- In person days – should they be more adjacent days to allow for additional touring and more informal discussion?
- How should we incorporate/reincorporate ULAC?
- Should commission membership rotate out/in?

Comments

- *Could we do once or twice on campus per year, with the remaining on Zoom?*
 - *Pace seems about right – quarterly.*
 - *Perhaps 1-2/year in person*
- *Think 1 or 2 times a year in person is too few. Would be open to additional consecutive days in person.*
- *Interim meetings have worked well (half day).*
- *The continuity of the current commission is valuable, adding a few additional voices could definitely be beneficial to help ease those who are leaving at some point. As well as very active student commissioners.*
- *As far as in person vs virtually...It's easy to mask issues virtually, vs in person interaction. It really depends on where the project is at in the timeline. A healthy hybrid of the two (in person/virtually) is a likely best.*
- *As the projects shift in the next two years, the cadence should likely shift.*
 - *With that shift...perhaps a twice a year in person, 2 days each session experience is good. One day in Seattle, and then rotating at either Tacoma or Bothell.*
 - *Potential in-person twice – March/September Cadence would be ideal for Campus visits.*
- *Zoom doesn't allow for the spontaneous conversations, and doesn't give you a great sense of the dynamic between the teams.*
 - *Zoom works best for follow up, once a project has really been established.*
- *Are there certain things that a sub-group could help facilitate?*
- *In person meetings let the commissioners get to know the users better.*
- *Acute risk of mass turnover on the commission is a concern. 4-5 commissioners is likely the right amount.*
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Based on the feedback the commission will look at potential for planning quarterly meetings with 2 times/year in person and 2 times virtual, then ad hoc as needed. For September meeting, we will look at options of postponing meeting and combine with December or shifting to Oct/Nov.

Closing Comments

- The UW Landscape provides an increased campus experience and makes Seattle campus one of the more beautiful campuses. This thread has weaved its way to satellite sites.
- The effort in recent months to broaden the net hopefully will help expand the design quality across campus. Despite, these efforts, for recent selections, we still haven't really brought/seen new firms to campus yet.
 - Perhaps allow new firms, unfamiliar with the design method...to begin with the smaller renovation projects to familiarize themselves with the process.

Next meeting is August 10th or 11th, 2021, TBD.

Meeting Adjourned at 4PM.