

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of UWAC  
Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Hans Rosling Center

**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
X	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 August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes and current agenda were approved.

Primary Projects for the rest of 2022

Health and High Performance—will get an update in the March meeting from Gensler

Medical Center is having leaking roof issues, working with Ellman and Walker Macy on that. Will share schematic design in March regarding entry.

Engineering building updates

Anderson Hall—depends on if state funds the project.

**Site W27 Project Update**

Shane Ruegamer – UW Project Manager

Project Goals Reviewed

- Context
- Sustainability
- Coast Salish Culture Collaboration
- Public Realm

- Gateway

#### Design Update

- Successfully addressed some of the issues but feedback was that building was too corporate office and not enough campus.
- Campus context has building design entering at 3 different elevations and requires additional scope regarding slope, shape, access and zoning.
  - Balancing higher quality and building efficiency
  - Activated ground plan “70/80/90”
- Wexford approach: reflect local culture, technology enhanced, flexibility and adaptability, fostering community, innovation and collaboration.
- Integration of Coast Salish Values: connection, stewardship and collaboration through both preserving and restoring the indigenous environment while building.
  - Concept of weaving throughout the architecture, in the landscape and ground floor.
  - Intersecting knowledge communities.
  - Indigenous habitats reintroduced: forest edge, wetlands, stone meadow, intersected by Burke Gilman trail, longer view of Mount Tahoma, engaging value of nature.

#### Comments

- *Are we setting in motion a series of patronizing ideas that may not be representative of The Salish People? Do we have the right set of concerns? Are our actions performative?*
  - *Profession wrestles with this, Intent is to have awareness of values and impact re: weaving industry and academia together.*
- *Model does not show the design details that are being presented. Is the deck space academic or retail?*
  - *Could be any variation mixture of research and retail space.*
- *Is there a version of this that is less commercial? It doesn't feel as though the ideas are connecting beyond the planes of the terrace. Panels are architecturally inconsistent, expression is not supporting ideas.*
- *How does this impact what happens in future development? We have a huge opportunity to show balance between materiality. Pathway at podium level could be enforced more. More consistency with the Burke usage is needed, seems very superficial/not rooted yet. Want to see this impact beyond just the podium level—into the higher levels.*
  - *We are working to balance materiality with transparency.*
- *Transparency and materiality don't have to be mutually exclusive, add thickness. Proportion of material (brick slivers) doesn't feel authentic. Want to see the patterning of the vertical fins integrated down to the podium. Every side is treated differently and needs to be more consistent.*
  - *Agreed that additional integration of that texture at the base is in the plans.*
- *Agree, bring more of that to integrate the space into campus architecture. We see the impact on one side with the woven glass and not on the other two. If you drop down into another floor with a totally different expression, we lose the cohesiveness of the idea.*
- *Exterior and interior discussion had radically different vocabulary.*
- *What about landscape material further up, softer expression with green roof—less linear?*
  - *That is the intent, it's hard to see in the renderings, Discussion of hard edges of landscape and where it spills out.*
- *Some ideas from initial presentation have been lost, others have maintained and are not actualized. You should question those initial ideas and determine if it's still reliable. Ground floor plan is very compelling and we don't get that feeling from the rest of the building design.*
- *At its core, this building is not for the Salish people. This building is on stolen land, like so many others. The metaphor works for designing a cultural center but that is not the purpose of this building. How will indigenous people access and use this building? What does a clean energy institute mean? How can we*

*be involved? How can we make our metaphors have integrity?*

- *This may ultimately be the responsibility of the University and not Wexford. Open dialogue helpful.*

Meeting will resume at 9am tomorrow.

**Meeting adjourned at 4PM.**

# ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of UWAC  
Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Hans Rosling Center

## Architectural Commission

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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 and provided a Land Acknowledgement of the Coast Salish Peoples.

## Updates for Additional Projects

Kristine Kenney – UW Director of Architecture and Planning

Steve Tatge—UW AVP of Asset Management, Interim

### College of Engineering Interdisciplinary Building

- Design is in very early stages however, lots of recommendation to buy materials early due to supply chain issues
- Some buildings are being redesigned due to labor shortage, supply chain issues (mineral insulation, for example, is impossible to find right now due to Amazon is building distribution centers everywhere).
- Computer science within the college of engineering can raise money easily, mechanical/civil engineer is not in the same economic boom. There is also a fundraising portion of this project but that is not going as well as they'd hoped.
  - Engineering issue is not only because of escalation, 2015/2018—we missed the impact of the building code change and its cost implementation. Seismic and energy Edmonds Community College—cannot repeat this mechanical system today but it was meant to be a benchmark. 10-12% increase, plus escalation. Cost model of predesign did not account for unpredictability, escalation and coding.
- Labor shortage, labor force for construction—highly unvaccinated, 40%. Construction people cannot go inside any of the buildings due to being unvaccinated, may be appealing to work on other projects

- When extending life of building, have to bring everything up to code. Substantial alteration conversation with the City—trying to avoid.

#### T-Wing

- Balancing short term investment vs. future plans and capacity.
- Project we are doing now should give T-Wing another 10-15 years while planning for long term needs.
- S1 Parking Garage is in a state of failure. 5-10 years left—taking it offline will be challenging (full by 8am), but needs to be the first domino in the series of improvements.

#### UWMC Membrane

- The entire entry (to Pacific Street near UWMC) will need to be removed and replaced. Current membrane is dripping into the levels below grade.

#### Power Plant Reliability Project

- Aging infrastructure for steam based heat that is becoming obsolete.
- Current system heats everything, including UWMC.
- Non-architectural plant reliability project. Will not impact Commission directly. New Executive Director Dave Woodson starting with UW on 11/1—focus to get UW off of natural gas/steam and go all electric.

#### College of Built Environments

- Focusing on climate solutions, collaborative practices, advance discussion around strategic plan.
- Architecture firm search: emphasizing less on previous experience and more on methodology. Not many firms that are well known to rethink higher education architecture.

### **ICA Basketball and Human Health Performance**

Harry Fuller – UW Project Manager

#### Project Updates

- The UW project manager introduced the slating committee and gave a brief overview of the project and slating process. The project used an A3 RFQ format and conducted virtual office visits with 5 final firms. After those interviews, 3 finalist firms were selected for consideration.
- The commission conducted in-person interviews with architect finalists including
  - Moody Nolan
  - Gensler
  - ALSC Architects
- After deliberation the Commission selected the Gensler team for recommendation.
- Overall, the commission was looking for teams that were not just focused on the facility itself and athletic program alone, but enhancing the overall institution, and providing a sense of access and connection.
- Gensler provided a strong and energetic presentation, with clear evidence of effective collaboration. The commission felt their design was thoughtful and articulate, and appreciated how they balanced not just dictating what they'd do but also demonstrating opportunity that could be considered.

#### *General Comments Related to Architecture Firm Selection Process*

- *When the Slating Committee provides these updates to the Commission ahead of interviews—make sure you're commenting and giving your impression and feedback on the excellence of design. May need to consider reevaluating the order of review for finalist firms.*
- *Perhaps there should be a weighting process by the commission with the long list.*

**Closing Comments**

- Need to be careful how we refer to the area. Referencing it as an Athletic “Village” will not sit well with many indigenous communities. Standardized language such as this needs to be rethought and constructed when used to describe these spaces.

The next meeting will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3pm.**