

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of UWAC
Monday, February 1, 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	Bobbie Koch	Student Representative, Architecture	Voting
X	Aubree Nichols	Student Representative, Architecture	Voting
X	Kristine Kenney	University Landscape Architect, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Mike McCormick	Associate Vice President, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Lou Cariello	Vice President, UW Facilities	Ex Officio

Minutes by Stephanie Parker

Call to Order

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

The Chair introduced and welcomed the 2 new UWAC student representatives: Aubree Nichols and Bobbie Koch

Approval of Past Minutes and Current Agenda

The December 14th, 2020 meeting minutes and current agenda were approved.

Site W27 Architect Selection Interviews

Shane Ruegamer – UW Project Manager

The Commission received a brief overview of the Site W27 project. Currently in the final stages of RFP, the building will be a teaching and interdisciplinary facility, poised to kick off the redevelopment of West Campus at the UW. Also included as part of the project, is the development of the West Campus Greenway which filters down toward newly developed waterfront park and interacts with the Burke Gilman Trail.

This is anticipated to be an innovative facility, with mixed use interactive zones, which also both recognizes and celebrates the indigenous cultures of the area and their importance.

The Commission conducted Architect Selection Interviews which included the following candidate firms:

- Biomed – Perkins + Will, OJB Landscape

- Wexford – ZGF, Jones & Jones Landscape
- Alexandria – Gensler, GGN Landscape

After deliberation, the Commission selected the Alexandria – Gensler, GGN Landscape team for recommendation.

Overall the commission felt the Alexandria design was more provocative, interesting and full of innovative thought. While the overall scheme felt a bit complex in places, the Commission felt this could be overcome.

Additionally, the Commission recommended that Wexford be a preferred secondary option, should Alexandria not be financially feasible.

UW Tacoma Milgard Hall

Shannon Thompson – UW Account Manager

Project Updates

- The team has completed project definition and has moved into the design phase.
 - o Currently, the project is moving forward with a 3 story building to maximize efficiency in organization, reduce complexity, and maximize future development on the site. Additionally, this design allows the scale of the building to situate well within the campus setting.
- Existing Site Plan
 - o A Historic Coal Bunker defines the Prairie Line Trail (PLT) and will remain an element of the site design, as well as newly installed trash compactor facility that borders Snoqualmie.
- Structural Strategy
 - o Mass timber elements will be used for beams, columns and flooring.
 - o Steel beams planned only in select areas with larger spans.
- Environmental Strategies
 - o Strategically placing programming to efficiently combine higher heat load spaces with areas that require high HVAC loads like labs, etc.
- Site Plan and Focus Areas
 - o Consider this building as an anchor site, which allows for essential connections. The team has specifically focused elements of circulation, access, campus face, program engagement and how the facility responds to the PLT.
 - C street entrance
 - Create a consecutive experience from north campus along C-street
 - Focus on intuitive circulation and access to building.
 - A key connection point for ADA parking and access.
 - Prairie Line Entrance
 - The team reviewed several iterations related to edging along this entrance, since the court area/access space would provide separation from what is expected to be a heavily used entrance.
 - o HIPS Court space vs stairs and ramp access.
 - East/West Campus connection on north side

- The team reviewed two different options. One which will utilize existing stairs to create an adjacent path for direct connection though to C-street, and one which provides more engagement with the HIPS program.
 - Entry Commons and Ground Floor
 - The commons corridor leads through the space adjacent to classrooms, lab setting spaces and connects exterior court spaces.
 - Second floor
 - Include lab spaces, faculty and larger design thinking classroom space. Includes a commons looking down into working spaces below on the ground floor.
 - 3rd floor
 - Large flexible classes and break out spaces, lab space and faculty offices/training spaces.
- Façade development
 - Focused on how façade communicates the importance of the programs on the interior of the building.
 - Create a sense of welcome.
 - Ensure activation of exterior spaces to promote internal/external activity.
 - Ensure ease of access, and ability to move people through spaces efficiently.
 - Façade approach possibilities
 - Material uniformity wrapped around the building.
 - Building scale variations - Interlocking material and volumes.
 - Materiality
 - Team shared different ideas that are in development, which include both brick and metal options.
 - Brick and masonry being considered as a way to provide warmth, relief and texture.
 - Metal option provides rain screen and different texture.
 - Windows – Punched openings planned, along with select areas of curtain walls.
- Site Views
 - Hoping to maximize experiential views as much as possible.

Comments

- *The 3 story site plan scheme leaves less space for future buildings in the designated parking area. Are we ok leaving this space forever as a parking lot?*
 - *The impact of the 4 vs 3 story difference was relatively insignificant. There is still ability to have a building on the site, with different parameters (ie - taller).*
- *Is there a reason that the HIPS classroom needs to spill out?*
 - *Preference given to design with steps moving down toward that classroom as it most effectively activates that edge of the building.*
 - *It is not a requirement to the program, but it would be useful for flexibility of the space as currently designed and in the future.*
 - *If it can be used programmatically, that would be a great asset.*
- *Since the other aspects of the building are largely flat, having an opening on the west side would be well received.*
- *Key in planning portion for floor plan, is developing the commons as more than just a corridor. Encourage places to pause, and linger.*
- *Keep looking at the stairs. This needs more thought.*
- *Appreciated the envelop strategy. Some articulation is built into the program, more than just window size. The L-shaped wrap has potential.*
- *Explore bigger more dramatic windows in the larger spaces.*

- *Are there opportunities to get more daylight into the north/south corridors?*
 - o *Hope to find and provide more borrowed light where we can.*
- *Compliments on ADA access to both entrance spaces, particularly on the development related to the grading challenges.*

UWMC Northwest Behavioral Health Teaching Facility

Jeannie Natta – UW Account Manager

A brief project overview was provided by Ryan Kimmell, Chief Psychiatry at UW Medicine.

The facility provides:

- A comprehensive, medical, surgical and mental health facility.
- A space for state of the art training for multiple disciplines, allowing for cross discipline collaboration and education.
- An expansion of the current 24/7 telehealth program already available across the state.

Project Updates

- Campus Site
 - o A general site plan and overview was reviewed to help reorient the Commission.
- Design Drivers
 - o Reinforce service and public connections including connection to A-wing services.
 - o Maximization of daylight into therapy spaces, as well as access to outdoor spaces.
- Project Definition
 - o Currently a 6th floor building with a mix of Behavioral Health and Med Surge spaces, as well as a ground floor including many public functions, as well as facility and environmental services.
- Building Organization
 - o Extended access from main floor to A-wing to provide additional service access.
 - o Provide direct connection from Med Surge beds on levels 2 and 3 to connect to A Wing.
 - o Green terraces connected to therapy spaces
 - All outdoor spaces refocused to the Southeast, to maximize light and sun exposure.
- Site Program
 - o Ground floor dining terrace/ entry.
 - Access through drop off area or from east via pedestrian table top connection to easterly parking area.
 - Entry creates decision point to proceed up stairs to second floor, or toward reception or dining terrace.
 - Dining Terrace – includes integrated seat walls amid varied seating options. The terrace is set below the adjacent access path/side wall.
 - o Therapy terrace developed on 4th level.
 - o Newly added level 2 moss terrace off of north tower allows for additional exterior access.
- Landscape Inspiration
 - o Looking to incorporate Northwest elements including moss and treescapes as well as distant views of Mt. Rainier and the hardscapes on display against the foliage.
 - o Goal to engage multi-sensorial aspects.

- Interior Spaces
 - Focused on reducing stress, creating environment of warmth and invitation, and one that dissuades a feeling of an institutional environment.
 - Behavioral Health floors have been reimagined to be a more open environment with more exterior engagement.
 - Allows for visibility throughout corridors as well as provides direct access to distant tree line views and beyond.
 - Terrace is becoming a main focal point, especially for long term patient experiences.
 - Maximizes space to move around. Currently confirming that space is programmed correctly for potential/intended use.
 - The glass enclosure is topped by a cantilevered top, which is required for patient safety.
 - Interior spaces are being considered and have many safety requirements. Currently designs are considering warm and inviting elements and stress relieving exposure.
- Campus Context and Materiality
 - Hope to avoid a heavy brick building on the hill look; going for a less institutional feel.
 - Looking at terracotta, natural facades, metal, and glazing etc.
 - Enclosure studies in process to identify options.
 - Hope to play down the scale of the building by using materials that blend into existing facades, and break down the feeling of a monolithic building.
 - North side exceptional trees and design elements will provide screening for much of the loading docks, from ground view as well as from above.

Comments

- *Planning changes for therapy block are good. Still have concerns about the arrival. Seems like you can't see the front door when driving up. Keep thinking about this entry sequence.*
- *The entrance problem is, you can't see the front door as you're driving up. The approach is invisible. The lobby also feels very tight. Relaxing the lobby might allow for a more appealing space. Needs to be friendly and generous from the moment you enter.*
 - *The drop off areas also seems very tight.*
 - *Traffic study is currently underway to fully understand space.*
- *The building change from 2-3 window bays gives a good rhythm to the building. The materiality and facade is not there yet. Would appreciate seeing options on other considerations, rather than just one idea.*
- *Appreciate the presence of the canopy at entrance, but still some thought needs to be put into it.*
- *Dining area design seems much more positive, and less left over.*
- *Can imagine the building as a terracotta or northwest material. The white metal therapy space needs to be rethought. Needs to be more gentle and joyful building. Appears as is, to be a jail on top of a building.*
- *Worry about the terrace feeling too much like a "prison" with walls, and need for mesh, etc.*
- *The therapy spaces is a wonderful advancement.*
- *Landscape spaces are much more convincing in the perspective drawings than expected, and are progressing well.*
- *What is the nature of plant material as it relates to bio retention, etc.*
 - *The bioswales are intended to only hold additional water for short periods of time. It will be integrated into the landscape more effectively.*
 - *A detention or storage tank will be part of the design as well, per requirement, to address water runoff.*
 - *Tree pallets include oak and maple plantings, as well as dappled shade options like locus.*
- *Exterior dining seating feels wrong for the space.*

UWB + CC STEM 4

Harry Fuller – UW Account Manager

Project Updates

Currently the project is well into the Design Phase of development and permit processing. Major completion is still scheduled for May 2023 with classes to begin in September 2023.

- Site
 - Plaza space
 - Reduced and separated from the crescent path
 - Entry plaza courtyard enclosure from treed retention island provides seating.
 - West Access
 - Elevated walkway now provides a reason for pause and views.
 - Plantings help create separation between service court and entrance
 - Inside outside relationships are key to siting plan, and develop through connection and scale.
- Landscape Typology
 - Includes current upland canopy stitched in with restorative landscape to ensure future generations of landscape foliage.
 - Designed though use of managed landscape including meadow connection already in place from Cascadia College building.
- Program
 - Room numbering has changed to be consistent with the rest of campus.
 - Most programming remains unchanged from previous iterations, including mixed institution floor spaces which include faculty, student and classrooms spaces.
- Connection and Study Space
 - East Stair and Student Study Space
 - Student surveys provided great responses.
 - Showed that priority was given to study space over social space.
 - Hope to use existing monumental timber in stair treads; existing wood that has been collected from campus over the ears.
 - Light well Study Space
 - A collaborative space with different seating heights and spaces, as well as individual study space options.
 - Study space development and materiality is still in development. Looking at options for upholstery that is movable or that interacts will with interior facades, and is flexible for varied use.
- Interior/ Exterior Connection
 - Focusing on views and see through experiences from inside labs, classrooms and view areas.
- Exterior façade
 - Goals Include:
 - Make programs visible
 - Maximize daylight views,
 - Provide long range flexibility and adaptability,
 - Include simple pallets and materials that reflect nature of site and program
 - Daylight Section
 - To include monumental windows to maximize daylight access.

- Modulated fenestration studies showed little daylight reduction between the two different variations shown.
- Articulated façade designs includes staggered fenestration amid shelf angles and spandrels.

Comments

- *The exterior patio to the shop is much better.*
- *The new curved path almost creates too many options. Perhaps a shortened bio island would help?*
- *The south side of the building has come a long way. The building better sits in the ground in a slightly managed way but less landscaped then before. Much more comfortable and set in connection now.*
- *The articulated façade development is good...it's much richer than previously, and seems much more correct now.*
- *Wish there was more consciousness of movement of nature within the interior corridors. Is there any way to have some transparency from that interior hall space?*
 - *One example of this exists so far.*
 - *Is there a way to find this in other areas as well?*
- *Height of the window sill is high. Will occupants be able to see out when seated? Lower sill heights are more pleasant in general. Holding back the ceiling is great design, allowing for those big windows, but suggest lowering the sill. It's currently uncomfortably high.*
- *Appreciated the animation. It conveyed the quality and experience of the site and building well.*
- *In the classroom plan, concern was expressed related to the faculty office area. Are there other ways to look at enclosed vs open areas for this? Will it feel too much like a rabbit wren as currently designed?*
 - *UW required that all faculty have access to the same light, which is why offices are organized in the way they are.*

Health Science Education Building

Mike McCormick - UW AVP Facilities Asset Management and University Architect

Kristine Kenney – UW Director of Campus Architecture and Planning and University Landscape Architect

Project Updates

- This building is currently under construction, with completion expected around May 2022.
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- Exterior Material
 - The design team found a coated metal material alternative to what was originally proposed at Commission meetings.
 - The material has additional mica chip reflection in it to engage more light in the building experience. They looked at similar colors to what the Commission saw, but with more reflection.
- Banding Issue Resolved
 - Reduced to one channel per panel, and minimized the 50% perforation.
 - The transition at the bottom was redeveloped as there was difficulty keeping it horizontal. This has been redesigned and will be much easier to implement.
- Stair and entrance competition concerns
 - Rather than a super graphic stair, they are now focusing on cohesive collaborative messaging on both entrances of the building.
 - The team created a new committee called “storytelling” to help develop and share the story of the spaces effectively.

Closing Comments

Overall, presentations seemed too long and didn't allow enough time for dialogue with Commissioners.

- Design teams should focus efforts on what they need for feedback.
 - The Commission will reconsider allowing other design teams to sit in on other projects, and instead encourage viewing the presentations online if they want to see how projects are progressing.
- Structure
 - Teams should limit presentations to fewer slides.
 - Simplify messages - What we did; what we're doing now. The commission needs to be able to better see the evolution.

- Milgard Hall
 - *Overall the direction of this design is very thoughtful. Some subtle articulation would be helpful.*
 - *Make sure the roof top topography is shown, as there will be mechanical equipment and it will impact the look.*
 - *Concern expressed that the current plan looks like it's an existing building that's being renovated.*
 - *The presentation focused too much discussion on small things and not enough on the bigger issues.*
 - *It's surprising that the 4 story building was more expensive, and not a better fit.*
 - *Code triggers provided some fire rating challenges...among other things associated with 4 stories.*
 - *In view of the future use of the adjacent site, they may indeed need to look at it as an option again.*

- Behavioral Health Teaching Facility
 - *The big, white section looks and feels like a jail.*
 - *The articulation of the therapy space was not received well.*
 - *The Design team needs to be better about explaining why things are the way they are. Why did they land where they did on different elements of the design? What's fixed; what their choice?*
 - *Could they show a series of studies of elevation of the white block development? How did they arrive at that?*
 - *The entrance is critical.*
 - *The team needs to step back and just rethink the whole area.*
 - *The last thing you want at a hospital entrance is coming in with a large van and not being able to make a turn.*

- UWB/CC STEM
 - *Perhaps show the evolution from one iteration to the next to help identify key changes. Where we were last time vs where we are now.*
 - *Corridors show no creativity on how to bring light in. This needs to be focused on and rethought.*

Next meeting is April 19, 2021.

Meeting Adjourned at 6PM.