

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services
October 21, 2010
26 Gerberding

Meeting Synopsis

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2010 Meeting
 3. Voting Rights for Ex Officio Members
 4. UW Campus Design/Vision
 - Rebecca Barnes, UW Architect
 5. Molecular Engineering Building, Phase 2 and Grant Circle Project
 - Steve Tatge, Senior Project Manager, Capital Projects Office
 6. West Campus Residential Development
 - Rob Lubin, Assoc. Director, Facilities and Cap. Planning, Housing/Food Services
 7. Adjournment
-

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 13, 2010 meeting were approved without changes.

3. Voting Rights for Ex Officio Members

A motion was approved to request that the Senate Executive Committee grant voting rights to ex officio members of the Council.

4. UW Campus Design/Vision

Rebecca Barnes, University Architect, introduced herself to the council. She said that her job is one of stewardship of the campus. It involves staffing the architectural commission but is also broader. She feels that it is important to preserve and enhance the sense of place, which has to do with the quality of experience of all on campus. She is an advocate for design excellence, mindful of preservation and continuity, and thoughtful about change. Her position has been newly placed in the Vice Provost's Office of Planning and Budgeting, where she serves as a bridge between policy and budget minds and processes, and design and implementation of facilities and services. She is sitting on a number of committees and groups on campus in order to understand the breadth of the university and its operations. She gave the web address for the architectural commission:

www.washington.edu/admin/pb/home/opb-uarch.htm.

Barnes explained her professional background, noting that she considers herself an urbanist concerned with making great places in great cities. In discussing issues facing the UW, she said that each campus has its own needs for central services, as well as a desire to be independent. She is interested in understanding more about relationships and partnerships, especially with the larger community. From a master planning perspective, major changes are afoot, like the construction of Sound Transit light rail stations in the area and the acquisition of the UW Tower off the traditional campus. This will bring a new critical mass of students in the south and west areas of campus. She also brought up an issue she has

noticed: the university is good at making changes in an incremental level but lacking an overall vision that increments can be guided towards. She sees a lot of opportunity to make a difference while here.

Treser asked for Barnes's thoughts on balancing aesthetics and functionality. Barnes said that one way to address this complexity is to call together different groups. For example, she brought together three different architecture teams doing housing projects around Campus Parkway for a one-day charrette on shared issues of the larger vicinity, dealing with the relationship to streets and on-site open space, and discussing how there might be more synchronicity among them. She came away from the event with an appreciation of the talent involved but realizing that there weren't many existing vehicles for bringing parties together. In thinking about the Campus Parkway area and its potential, she realized that the practice of the university is focused on creating buildings as projects and leaving to Facilities Services important elements of the campus, like the gateways and the landscape.

Rorabaugh said that space is really the key problem and an awful lot of people don't understand that; it's a constant battle that never ends. He anticipates changes in density and the nature of the University District with the extension of the light rail. Barnes added that changes would come especially with the Brooklyn station, and said that she is talking about transit oriented development with the Real Estate office. Treser said that he hopes the changes maintain the movement of people and the presence of open spaces.

5. Molecular Engineering Building Phase 2 and Grant Circle

Steve Tatge, Senior Project Manager in the Capital Projects Office, gave an update on the design of the second phase of the Molecular Engineering Building and plans for the adjacent Grant Circle area. He said that they are proceeding with the Phase 2 design, but the project is not currently funded, although philanthropy efforts are being made right now. From a construction standpoint, Phase 2 would be good to build right now, as it will connect directly with the northeast portion of Phase 1, currently under construction. He said that the buildings will look visually equal, and Phase 2 will have 70,000 square feet of space (compared to 90,000 SF for Phase 1). He showed renderings of the project and highlighted some key features. The ground floor will include a large multi-use space with moveable furniture, able to hold classes and functions. There will also be an undergraduate laboratory on the same floor. He said that both Phase 1 and Phase 2 buildings will have open access on the ground floors, while the lab and office portions will be secured.

Tatge also showed renderings of the Grant Circle (sometimes referred to as Johnson Circle) area. He said that separate from the Molecular Engineering project, there had been a Stevens Way entrance study that looked at depressing the intersection. Current vehicular-focused features of the area include the drop-off area, the Gerberding parking lot, and the entrance to the central parking garage. He said that of various concepts studied, general consensus had been reached on a plan to develop a path system that combines pedestrian and vehicular access on Grant Lane. The plan has an interim and final state. In the final state, the Grant Lane entrance to the central garage is removed, the stairway between Red Square and the lane are straightened out, and the Gerberding parking lot is removed, replaced by a landscaped terrace.

The council talked about the proposed closure of the garage entrance. It was noted that it is most used when there are backups in the other garage entrances, and especially when there is traffic queuing on 15th street.

Proksch said that Architecture faculty had expressed great concern with Phase 2's volume and massing. When standing on Grant Lane facing west, the building intrudes into the space and this main axis of campus. The scale of Phase 2 is out of proportion with the area buildings. Tatge answered that Barnes's predecessor was cognizant of that problem and had stressed the importance of keeping the building's footprint behind the center line of Grant Lane. That way, there is still a view of Architecture Hall from the lane. Also, the previous renderings shown to faculty had Phase 2 as five stories and Phase 1 as three stories, but now they are both four.

Rorabaugh expressed concern over the construction of a secured research building without classes in the center of campus. Tatge said that the ground floor of Phase 2 is now given over to a classroom and lab.

Little said that she was delighted to hear of the multipurpose room being added to Phase 2 and that there is going to be access through to the Phase 1 building. She said she'd like to have an open line of communication to the group to ensure that the buildings retain some general access.

6. West Campus Residential Development

Rob Lubin, Associate Director of Facilities and Capital Planning for Housing and Food Services, introduced the west campus development plans. He said they are focusing on sites designated as housing sites in the campus master plan, and have worked out a strategy for a net increase of 2200 beds by increasing density. They are paying attention to the urban fabric in the area while making a great space for students. There will be a first and second year student village of residence halls centered around Campus Parkway and new apartment-style buildings constructed on the northwest and southwest edges of the area.

Lubin enumerated some of the main philosophies driving the design, including a Learn 2 Live program aimed at developing citizenship and leadership among residents; safety and security; a sense of place that revitalizes the district; and stewardship: fiscally, environmentally, and in use of university land. He then went through many of the features planned for the development, such as an urban market, a retail space, LEED certification, a fitness center, a conference center, and more. The new residence hall at Brooklyn and 41st street will have a 200-seat auditorium capable of classroom use.

Rorabaugh asked about the concept of putting a parking garage under the current Mercer Hall site (to be redeveloped as apartments). Lubin said that a garage with about 150 parking spots is planned, and it may have an entrance on the southwest side. They are also building a garage under Terry/Lander with another 150 spots, and a 120 spot garage at the northwest development site.

The topic of summer conferences was raised. Lubin said the new residence halls will have great conference facilities. Halls are not specifically designated as conference hosts, but it will be based on the demand of any given summer. The food services arrangement will be able to accommodate groups of various sizes. Once a summer conference group expresses interest in housing, Housing and Food Services becomes more involved in helping to plan the logistics of a conference.

Rorabaugh praised the development plan as holistic and comprehensive. Proksch said it would be interesting to follow up on the living and learning communities being created, noting that they are the most successful when the college or unit involved has a strong interest in participation.

Treser asked how the decision would be made on what would occupy the proposed HFS retail space. Lubin said that they are entering into it timidly. The food services and even the grocery store will be run by HFS, and there will only be one 1500 SF retail space. Their goal is to make that space student focused and campus-friendly. Zuchowski suggested putting out a Request for Proposals for the space.

Kennedy said that the residential development is an integral part of a much larger development plan that would further integrate UW's presence into the district west of 15th St.

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes by Craig Bosman, Faculty Council Support Analyst

cbosman@uw.edu

Present:

Faculty:	Rorabaugh (Chair), Little, Ozubko, Proksch, Treser
Ex Officio:	Walker, Zuchowski, Goldblatt
President's Designee:	Kennedy
Guests:	Rebecca Barnes, Steve Tatge, Jon Lebo

Absent:

Faculty:	Chizeck, Gates
----------	----------------