

PERKINS
+ WILL

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting Date: December 8, 2010 Project Name: Binghamton University Facilities Master Plan

Subject: Open Forum Project No: SUCF Proj. No. 07839
PW Proj. No. 031532.000

Location: UU Mandela Room Prepared by: Tony Alfieri

Attendees: Nikki Conklin
Ken Boston

Lachlan Squair **SUCF**

Tony Alfieri
Sarah Freidel

Q: How will elements of sustainable design be incorporated into the plan? Are there any mandates to certify future construction?

A: The FMP will incorporate sustainability on multiple levels. Executive Order 111 mandates sustainable design in all state-funded building construction. Furthermore, the SUCF has a mandate to achieve a minimum LEED silver performance in all new building construction and renovation at campuses across the state, including BU. The FMP will also consider sustainable design through landscaping and the creation of a more walkable campus.

Q: It would greatly improve the quality of life on campus if the plan could identify ways to connect buildings so students can avoid the cold and snow. Will the master plan include an effort to increase connectivity between all the buildings?

A: The planning team has also noted the opportunity to increase connectivity between buildings at the main campus, and has identified the issue in the Planning Principles document, which will be used to evaluate future plan solutions. Connectivity is being studied on multiple levels in order to make the campus more user-friendly, accessible, and gracious in the way that campus users move from building to building.

Q: Based on the enrollment projections, the plan calls for a large number of new buildings in BU's future. Where will these buildings be located?

A: The planning team is in the process of studying a number of concept alternatives that will identify opportunity sites for future construction. One key site the team is studying is the

East Campus, within “the Brain” along East Drive, which will be a candidate for future development after the Original Dickinson Community is taken off-line. This site has the potential of accommodating significant expansion in close adjacency to the existing academic core at the West Campus.

Q: Has there been discussion of consolidating the Cinema program into the Fine Arts Complex?

A: The planning team is studying opportunities to redevelop the facilities for the Fine Arts division in a more holistic way. The option of co-locating all Fine Arts programs will be studied, however the amount of program that the Fine Arts Complex can accommodate is limited.

Q: With an increased campus population Harper's Ferry anticipates a rising call volume. There are concerns about the size of the new space provided for Harpur's Ferry, and its inability to accommodate a third ambulance, if needed. Where will this expansion go as a part of the master plan?

A: The planning team will consider study the best expansion plan for Harpur's Ferry in greater detail in the concept alternatives.

Q: Are there any plans to try to keep students from driving cars to campus or on campus?

A: While it is not in the purview of the facilities plan to designate policy on student use of vehicles, the plan will study options to encourage alternative modes of transportation to campus and on campus, creating a physical environment that is less dependent on use of vehicles. Special attention is being given to improving pedestrian connectivity between buildings and other activity centers, improving access to public transit options, and building on BU's investment in bicycle pathways.

Q: Will the plan identify a contingency plan in case actual future enrollment does not keep pace with the projected enrollment?

A: To account for future unknowns, the FMP will divide the plan into two main periods: a near-term future, and a longer-term future. An update to the master plan will occur between the two periods, or about mid-way through the planning horizon, which will allow the team to evaluate the University's enrollment status and modify the growth intentions of the longer-term period, as necessary.

Q: In the introduction it was mentioned that this work is part of a larger effort to look at all 32 four-year campuses across the SUNY System. If all the campuses generate comparable space needs, the aggregate financial requirements at the System level are staggering. Realistically speaking how does the total need manifest itself across the System?

A: Although the fiscal outlook is difficult, there is money allocated in the five-year capital plan (2008-2013) for new construction across the System. In the future funding will

likely exist for new construction; however it may not meet the System's full needs. In commissioning such a comprehensive planning study it is SCUF's intention is to allocate funds according to needs that align with institutional academic and strategic goals. This FMP will identify such facilities needs for BU, to aid in building a case for future new construction funding.

That said, the FMP will also develop a possible future for a scenario in which funding does not materialize.

This uncertainty surrounding funding for new construction underscores the importance of renovation funding, and leveraging the capabilities of existing buildings. Critical maintenance funding for renovation is considered a more certain line of funding, as the State recognizes the importance of maintaining its existing building investments.