

Minutes
Buildings and Grounds Committee
September 8, 2006
9:00-10:00am

Present: Barry Feldman, Peter Nicholls, Greg Anderson, Jim Bradley, Tom Callahan, Karla Fox, George Kraus, Ross MacKinnon, John Saddlemire, Bill Stwalley, David Woods

Absent: Lori Aronson

Staff: Lauren Douglas

The meeting commenced at 9:03am.

Approval of Minutes from 09.01.06 Meeting

The minutes were unanimously accepted as circulated.

Review of Plans for New Classroom Building

Five options for the new classroom building were looked at one-by-one and discussed. The new building is approximately 180,000 square feet and it will be sited between Hawley Armory and Babbidge Library. Two of the options were found to be unsuitable due to cost and programmatic consideration.

The next step is to choose one, two or all three of the remaining options and ask the architects to undertake more complete engineering studies so as to have a better idea of cost and feasibility. The projected design schedule and construction schedule is long – the proposed move-in date is August 2010.

Q: Can the entire building be moved closer to Babbidge Library? A: No, access to Babbidge and the surrounding buildings needs to be maintained. Also, the Academic Way needs to be preserved.

K. Fox pointed out that these building options all have flat roofs. The latest Master Plan calls for no more flat roofs and the reasoning behind this is partly functional (snow piling up, leaking, etc.) and partly aesthetic.

Q: Was consideration given to the original two-building option? A: Yes, consideration was given but the idea was turned down because of cost, phasing (building one new building, knocking one down, not having enough room for all displaced, etc.) and utility location.

Q: Are we expanding the size of the building with any of these options? A: No, each one of these options is presented with the same net space for the departments and for the classrooms.

T. Callahan commented that no matter which building design is chosen, Hawley Armory will be there in the front of the building; this building will be facing the historical section of campus. Not only will this plan build the proposed classroom building, but it must take into account the location of Hawley as well.

Q: Could the architects be asked about the impact this new building would have on the Psychology Building? Could this project be integrated with the new classroom building project? Can they be joined? A: The architects will be made aware of possible Psychology plans which will help ease any projected expansions down the road.

It was suggested that K. Fox brief J. Bradley on why this building conforms to the Master Plan (with respect to the walkways, pitched roofs, proximity of historical district, etc.). A meeting between the two will be set-up before the CPPAC Meeting on 09.14.06.

Any comments, questions, etcetera that are made at the upcoming CPPAC Meeting (or in general) will come back to the Buildings & Grounds Committee for review.

Student Union Quadrangle Update

The three main components are: 1. the Benton Area, 2. the Open Area, and 3. the Area beside Fairfield Way. Plans for a possible sculpture garden need to be considered. The new Director of the Benton Museum would like to give input.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14am.