

## CAMPUS MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

### WORKSHOP #4 – MEETING NOTES

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March 14, 2014 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., UW-Superior, Old Main, 310

Project Name: **UW-Superior Campus Master Plan Update**

Project Location: Superior, Wisconsin

Prepared By: Workshop Architects & LHB

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Steering Committee

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|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Jen Bird         | Director, New Student Services               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Liz Blue         | Interim Dean of Faculties                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nick Danz        | Associate Professor, Biology                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tom Fennessey    | Director of Facilities                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Beth Gilbert     | Professor, Music                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Faith Hensrud    | Provost                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | DeDe Herrick     | Cashier in the Bursar's Office               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dusty Johnson    | Facilities Management Engineering Specialist |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Steve Nelson     | Athletic Director                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mackenzie Peters | Student                                      |

##### Non-Campus Attendees

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|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Dan Stephans     | DFD, Project Manager                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Kate Sullivan    | UW System, Capital Planning and Budget |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Maura Donnelly   | UW System, Capital Planning and Budget |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Walter Johnson   | Workshop Architects                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bruce Cornwall   | LHB                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Elizabeth Turner | LHB                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mark Anderson    | LHB                                    |

Purpose: Review and discuss design guidelines – architectural and landscape. Review and discuss initial master plan concept plans.

Goal: Develop a description of the desirable campus character. Establish a direction for the master plan for both north campus and south campus areas.

#### ITEMS DISCUSSED

##### 1. DESIGN GUIDELINES

###### A. General Comments:

1. The campus needs an iconic feature that serves as a landmark for UWS. This would be the feature on campus that graduates “must” have their photo taken to commemorate their college experience.
2. Old Main has historically been the most recognizable campus element due to its existence spanning all generations of campus graduates and its prominent position on the quad.
3. Other notable campus features:

- a. Quad area between Old Main and YU
  - b. Clock tower – does not currently work
  - c. Rock sculpture at YU
  - d. Steps of Old Main (with Old Main as the back-drop)
4. The academic core area feels like a proliferation of sidewalks – perhaps more a response to needs than planned paths.
  5. In parallel to the list of words describing the region, start list of words describing the campus itself, beginning with “enduring” and “sustainable.”
- B. Architectural Guidelines:
1. Clarify that when wood is used as a building material on campus, it is primarily used in interior applications. When used outdoors, it is in a semi-protected application.
- C. Landscape Guidelines:
1. General Comments
    - a. Vacating Catlin has been considered in the past. Catlin also serves other educational institutions – WITC and the high school.
    - b. Important to consider providing a wind break along sidewalks – especially during winter.
    - c. If possible, consider ways to tie-in south campus so it feel more connected to north campus.
    - d. Rain gardens can help address storm water retention, as can consciously designed athletic field construction.
    - e. Cost should be considered for all landscape elements – both cost to install and cost to maintain.
    - f. The plant palette should be expanded beyond native species to include species that grow with limited maintenance in this climate. This is both from the reality that the clay soil and weather drastically limit the number of acceptable native species, and the educational value.
  2. Campus Quad
    - a. The quad should have a park-like quality with mostly tall canopy trees, very little to no low-growth plantings or evergreens, and an open (no trees) path between Old Main and Yellowjacket Union.
    - b. The canopy trees envisioned will provide shade without dramatically interrupting views across the quad or of buildings – views across the quad are relatively clear at the pedestrian level, minimal amount of branches and/or leaves immediately above, and with full foliage at the canopy above.
    - c. Walks should be wide enough to accommodate groups of pedestrians passing each other and outdoor event traffic.
    - d. A developed center or plaza is desirable.
    - e. Winter color is an important consideration. Conifers would offer color yearround but some species restrict visibility at eye level. Conifers should be limited to areas not adjacent to walkways.
    - f. Ornamental trees and understory plants can be mixed with existing trees.
    - g. Mulch should be used in all planting beds, but not at individual trees except at initial planting.
  3. Campus Gateway (at Catlin and Belknap)
    - a. The gateway should be warm and whimsical with an elevated focal point.
    - b. The focal point should cross Catlin – perhaps literally as an arch; perhaps implied through tall piers flanking either side of Catlin.

- c. It was noted that the main campus identification signage along Catlin does not have to match the campus' building identification signage. However, incorporating the "wave" from the campus' building identification signage is desirable.
- 4. Edge Treatments
  - a. Landscape treatment along Catlin could help generate a "sense of place."
  - b. Current edge treatment around campus does not provide an adequate level of distinction between residential neighborhood and campus. It feels too congruous. There is a desire to define a transition between neighborhood and campus while still maintaining connection.
  - c. Perhaps campus edge along Belknap is phased in over the life of the master plan with priority given to the Catlin-Belknap intersection.
  - d. Edge treatments should not be too structured.

## 2. INITIAL MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

### A. General Comments:

1. Campus safety office should not be located with residence halls – should be a separate building.
2. Old Main has a couple accessible entries. Although the building's primary entry at the quad is not accessible, the building complies with accessible entries. Both the north and west entries, which are nearest to parking, are accessible. Future development should emphasize the presence of the accessible entries.
3. With music events in Thorpe Langley Auditorium in Old Main, achieving a better way to move large music equipment to and from the auditorium stage should be considered.
4. Tennis courts should be provided near MWC.
5. Relocating Crownhart Hall (5) is not likely to happen within the lifetime of this master plan.
6. Developing a better pathway between Weeks Ave. and Old Main could be as illustrated at the west entry of Old Main, or could be at the north entry.
7. The diagonal walk (16) from the vicinity of CMO to YU is important.
8. The committee considered the benefits of the city's proposed storm water structure in the south campus woods, but would like other options considered.

### B. Proposed Concept A:

1. Proposed res hall location (5) is good as a reserved location for long-term consideration.
2. Proposed entry drive to YU (18) is clearer in this option than in B.
3. Proposed location for re placement of Barstow Hall (25) also provides winter shelter for pedestrians walking between east and west sides of the academic core.

### C. Proposed Concept B:

1. Proposed res hall location (5) is too close to MWC.
2. A single plaza in the quad (19) is preferred over multiple mini-plazas.

### Next Meeting

Time: 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
 Date: July 29, 2014  
 Location: UW-Superior, Old Main, 310

*The foregoing constitutes the writer's understanding of the matters discussed and the conclusions reached. Other participants are requested to review these items and advise writer of any errors and/or omissions within five business days of receipt.*