

MEETING NOTES

Project	UH UC Transformation Project
Project No. / File Code	G11311-00.50A
Meeting Date	10/12/2011
Attendees	<i>See Attached Sign-in Sheet</i>
Subject	Development Team Meeting #5

Agenda:

1. Discuss Lessons Learned from LSU
2. Recap information/comments collected to date
3. Review massing concepts
4. Tour SU models
5. Design Charette

Discussion:

1. Lessons Learned from LSU (What did you like about the center?)
 - Columns - they liked their distinctiveness
 - Wide doorways - double doors (Cheryl). Doors seemed to be wider throughout the building.
 - Openness of the railing - specifically the glass (Mike)

After looking at LSU, students want to see:

- Creative & warmer materials used in the new UC
- Strong desire to have building "pop" with UH branding/ something that says UH/Houston; more school pride throughout the UC - "go all out"; i.e. chairs with small UH emblem or old campus newspapers (to show history and pride)
- Be careful to use logos that might be only good for a time period; Cougars are good.
- Would like a living room feel
- First floor need to be most dramatic (in terms of changes/ new look from old) but have integration with the rest of the building

Liked at LSU:

- SGA Chamber - space is ideal for UH and how they (Mike/Craig) envision it being; liked how senator and executive spaces were separated but had a common connection (lounge)
- Email stations - would like to make them booths where you have to stand so that people would not be there all day
- Vehicular traffic flow - congested in front.
- Loading dock - very well masked.
- Nothing stood out that made the building pop.
- Idea of completely new building; glazing that you can see into; UC doesn't have pizzazz.
- Theatre; alternate for 600 seats; fixed seating in rows; ability to do multipurpose shows; might need to be softer like for watching a movie; like Wortham on campus.
- AV Control room out in the room was good, as well as natural light.
- Liked their pre-function space (could seal off from rest).
- Admin offices closed off in "boxes;" did not like entry into suites

2. Site Photos

- West side lane is a fire lane and has high access by golfcarts and university vehicles.
- For pedestrian traffic, that is a major corridor.
- The dock does not matter for traffic capacity (UC function only) since its needed mainly for daily campus maintenance.
- Major access points narrowing down is a problem; good for path to be widened to accommodate utility vehicles.
- Path being larger is ideal even after expansion/renovation.

3. Review massing concepts

- Most students coming from west side.
- Like lounge on the west.
- Like access point from the north.
- Like the symmetry of the central lounge.
- If separate student orgs, then possibly splitting up sense of community.
- Scheme A is nice because it's "non-boxy."
- Like the two distinct entrances on Scheme A.
- Like how Student Org space is contiguous on Scheme B.
- (Keith) likes the architecture of Scheme A, but like the functionality of Scheme B (non-separateness of the student orgs on B).
- Could the first floor not open all the way through but maintain the balcony and entry on the second floor.
- What's happening in student org lounge?
 - Recruitment for student orgs
 - Not a primary lounge for other students
 - UH Organization Fair
 - Tables for handouts and other university information (handouts)
- If keep staff and students on separate sides, then separation not a big deal; student orgs better on the west side; footprint of student orgs larger so might need more space on west.

If there was one thing that WHR had to get right, what would it be:

- Permeable entry to student orgs
- Engaging west side - activating that corridor
- Sloped lawn idea of Satellite (although lawn may not be as sloped); UH creates "Winter Wonderland" in winter
- Barbecues / Burgerfest event space
- Noisy event space; smaller informal gathering;
- Outdoor organization fair - grassy flat area needed for 10'x10' tents (Spring Fest ex.); space could be like Discovery Green Space; possibly sloped area near Melcher and flat area along the west walk; outdoor movie space also needed.
- Bike racks - see but not an eyesore.
- Outdoor lounge space on west side; terrace.
- Like the idea of developing a streetscape on west path; west lounge could have umbrella tables and chair on exterior; some kind of activity.
- Theater needs to have stadium seating and probably needs a balcony level; probably needs 24/7 access.

Next step:

- Design team to create a hybrid model that incorporates the features liked from Scheme A with a more contiguous student org space (like Scheme B).
- Hybrid model will be discussed at a design only meeting on Wednesday, October 19. Design team needs a diagram agreed to in order to proceed with SD documents.

Next (official) meeting:

- November 9

Additional Items:

- Get meeting scheduled with Ricca and Emily/Esmeralda to discuss the catering kitchen needs and status of market survey.
- Marie to adjust schedule to show construction Phase 1 - 18 months; Phase 2 - 12 months.
- WHR suggested to UH to get Bob Bowden's input on the phasing.

This information represents our understanding of items discussed during the meeting. Should anyone's understanding differ, please contact this office immediately, otherwise these notes shall be assumed correct.

Notes prepared by **Marie Hoke, AIA, Principal**
Enclosure **None**
Issued Date **10/18/2011**
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