

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
Fresno, California 93740

Campus Planning Committee

Minutes

March 14, 2014

Members

Present: Deborah Adishian-Astone, Amy Armstrong, Saeed Attar, Robert Boyd (acting Chair), John Bushoven, Rick Finden, Paul Halajian, Lisa Kao, Jeff Macon, Kathleen Moffitt, Dennis Nef, Fred Nelson, Jan Parten, Mikey Sanchez, Mike Tillman, Gary Wilson and William Wright

Absent: Charles Boyer, Mike Coles, Hongwei Dong, Yolanda Doub, Brad Hyatt, John Kriebs, Patrick Newell, Meaghan Smith (C.O.), Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Richard Vaillancour and Bernie Vinovski

Guests: Shirley Armbruster, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Devon Fullner, Sergio La Porta, Mike Mosinski, Lori Pardi and Shaunt Yemenjian

Meeting called to order at 8:04 a.m.

1. Approval of the March 14, 2014, agenda. It was MSC to approve the March 14, 2014, agenda.
2. Approval of the minutes. It was MSC to approve the minutes of February 14, 2014.
3. BioFiltro dairy filtration system (*Informational*) – Mike Mosinski

Mr. Mike Mosinski shared information regarding a pilot project currently in place at the University Farm Laboratory. BioFiltro, a company working out of the Water & Energy Technology (WET) Center, launched the pilot program earlier in the year. Working with Dr. David Zoldoske and the WET Center, the company developed a dairy filtration system that uses wriggler worms and microbes to process wastewater.

The process removes 80% of the biologicals in the water making it suitable for irrigation. The operating area for the pilot project covers an overall footprint of about 4,000 feet. The actual filter unit, housed near the dairy, is about 20x30 ft. and is a box looking structure. Currently, the farm pulls a tenth of the water to test the technology, cleaning about 1,600 gallons of water/day. It is anticipated that it would treat about 9,000 gallons/day at full flow. The plan is to expand this project to test its capability and see if the technology proves effective.

Other benefits are that the worm castings could be used as fertilizer throughout the farm, and initial indicators signal that there may be a reduction in odor. Mr. Mosinski shared additional details about the process itself.

Ms. Astone clarified that this is not a university owned project. There are partnerships and the Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT) is helping with this project.

This biological process has worked at other locations in various countries. The company hopes to expand this to other dairies, swine facilities, etc. This item is for informational purposes only.

4. Armenian Genocide Memorial (*Informational*) – Halajian/La Porta/Der Mugrdechian

Mr. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program and Director of the Center for Armenian Studies at Fresno State, and Dr. Sergio La Porta, President of the Armenian Genocide

Centennial Fresno Committee and Professor in the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State presented the concept and purpose of the Armenian Genocide Memorial.

April 24, 2015, marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The proposal is to construct an Armenian Genocide Memorial on the Fresno State campus to mark this special occasion. Mr. Der Mugrdechian provided a mission statement that incorporates the following three core concepts:

1. Commemoration and remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.
2. Education and awareness of genocide.
3. Inspiration and celebration. To celebrate the lives of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their contributions.

Mr. Der Mugrdechian highlighted that the San Joaquin Valley is home to more than 50,000 Armenians, making it particularly important to house this memorial in Fresno. The campus was also considered particularly appropriate in light of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Mr. Paul Halajian and Mr. Shaunt Yemenjian, commissioned by the Genocide Centennial Committee to design the monument, presented the visual aspects of the design.

In consultation with Facilities Management, the location that was identified is the area on the east side of the intersection of the Maple Mall and the Rose Walk. Mr. Halajian shared some of the elements that provided the inspiration for the piece. Four topics were provided as a point of departure with regard to the design:

- Abstract: It was determined that the design should be abstract so as to engage people's imagination to contemplate on the much larger issue of genocide.
- Provocative: It should be provocative and challenging, not a background object in the landscape, so that it encourages thought and reflection. It is also not intended to be a place of comfort where people can linger and/or socialize.
- Unity: It should convey unity, unity in terms of the Armenian experience. The monument will include nine columns that represent and address specifics of the Genocide: the six vilayets (provinces) of Armenia; the Cilicia (Kingdom of Armenia); the diaspora (communities of Armenians outside of the Republic) at the time; and also the Republic of Armenia that still remains.
- Future: And lastly, the monument shall serve as a symbol to all of commitment to preservation of the essential right to life. Although these ideas are specific to the Armenian experience, the design of genocide is not specifically about Armenians only. The Armenian Genocide is the first genocide of what is considered the modern age/20th century; unfortunately, it was not the last. The United Nations has a statement on the prevention of genocide. That concept will be expressed in the design.

Inspiration was gathered from the Dzizernagapert Monument (memorial) in Yerevan, Armenia and the Ani Cathedral in Ani, Turkey.

The monument will be made up of nine columns that represent the vilayets and areas as mentioned previously. One column will be 19 feet tall and each proceeding column will be successively shorter until the last one which will be 15 feet tall. The center will contain something that is symbolic of Armenia; the image shared for this presentation is an eternal flame symbol.

The view from the west (Rose Garden) will be open and allow one to enter the space. The columns would go from left to right (clockwise), beginning with the 19 ft. column on the left and ending with the 15 ft. column on the right, providing a literal reference to when the Genocide took place (1915). This will also create a helical form that connects all the columns and will be used to unify the elements of the

structure. It is also intended to add a subtle gesture/reference to the helix of a human genome; hence a root of the word genocide.

The material used will be raw concrete for the columns and an indigenous stone from Armenia called tufa will be used at the base. The ground plane would contain text, images or possibly a quote. An artistic motif will be used along the columns. The art is still in the conceptual stage.

Currently there is a tree and temporary art in the proposed location. Some of the comments, questions and concerns expressed by committee members are listed below:

- Lighting is not in the current specifications. The designers are looking at lighting that would come down from the halo (helix) and/or perhaps some step lights at the base. It will not be brightly lit or light up.
- The plan does not and will not include seating within the monument, but is open to seating around the monument.
- It is anticipated that birds will be attracted to and perch on the monument.
- Consideration needs to be given to how the monument fits into this area of campus, especially given its size and the proposed location. It was noted that this walkway houses the Memorial Fountain, Memorial Garden, the Veterans Memorial and the Submarine Memorial. This corridor in essence is marked by remembrances. For this reason and because of the other monuments that surround the Conley Art building, this space was considered the best location for the monument.
- There was a concern over whether or not placement of the monument would open the door to other similar type requests (e.g. Holocaust memorial and others) and whether Fresno State will be prepared or able to address those. In addition, this could be considered a shift from the theme that is presently carried in this area. It was pointed out that the Peace Garden all the way to the opposite end of the campus is inspired by commemoration and representation of various groups.
- Ensuring that the monument fits into the Campus Master Plan and considering how it may affect shading of the walkway that runs through this space was also a topic of discussion.
- It was suggested to place the monument on one of the grassy knolls in the area so as not to obstruct the landscape view from this end of campus or impede on the flow of traffic. Mr. Boyd commented that these areas were considered during the walk through; however, these areas presented utility issues, grade issues and accessibility concerns. Currently, the Memorial Fountain and the Veterans Memorial are large monuments along this corridor. It is possible to add the Genocide Memorial along this walkway along with the others without altering the flow of traffic or current circulation.
- It was mentioned that the Armenian experience in Fresno is different from the Armenian experience in other areas and whether this would be captured or highlighted in the memorial. Dr. La Porta replied that it is an aspect the Armenian Genocide Centennial Fresno Committee desires to capture; however, how to accomplish this is still being deliberated.
- It was commented that communication and discussion with the Turkish community in the area is important.

Dr. La Porta provided a brief overview of the history of the Armenian Genocide and its official recognition by historians, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, in California along with 42 other states, and other countries. The Armenian Genocide Memorial will provide a space where students, faculty, staff and visitors can peacefully contemplate the significance of genocide.

Dr. Attar found it interesting that this is about 180 degrees from the Peace Garden where individuals promoted non-violent behavior and this would be the opposite extreme of violent behavior.

It was recommended that the project group share this information in other forums such as the Academic Senate, the Provost Leadership Team and the Administrative Roundtable. Mr. Der Mugardechian and Dr. La Porta added that the information was shared with Dr. Castro and Dr. Matson and they both expressed their support of the project.

In light of these comments, Ms. Astone suggested that the project team take a closer look at the Campus Master Plan, with the assistance of Mr. Vaillancour, in order to make consideration for future landscape features and extension/modification of the walkway through to parking P5 (formerly parking lot A). Chair Boyd agreed and reiterated that this is an informational item and encouraged committee members to disseminate the information to their respective units.

The hope is to return the item to the April 11, 2014, CPC meeting as an action item. If approved, the Armenian Genocide Centennial Fresno Committee would like to make a formal announcement on April 24, which is the commemoration day of the Armenian Genocide. The memorial will be funded through private donations.

5. Other Business – None

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 a.m.