

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
Fresno, California 93740

**Campus Planning Committee**  
Minutes  
May 31, 2012

**Members**

Present: Deborah Adishian-Astone, Amy Armstrong, Robert Boyd, Charles Boyer, Rick Finden, Paul Halajian, John Kriebs, Dennis Nef, Patrick Newell, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Richard Vaillancour and Gary Wilson

Absent: Kiranjit Dhanjan, Lisa Kao, Jan Parten and Bernard Vinovrski

Guests: Paul Miller and Lori Pardi

Meeting called to order at 2:48 p.m.

1. Approval of the May 31, 2012, agenda.

It was MSC to approve the May 31, 2012, agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2012, meeting.

It was MSC to approve the minutes of April 17, 2012.

3. North Gymnasium assembly room and landscape improvements (Informational) – Paul Miller

Mr. Wilson provided a quick overview of the vision and the reasoning behind the North Gym Assembly Room and the landscape improvements project on the west end of campus. The recent opening of the Aquatics Center provided backfill space in the swimming pool area. In light of the recent projects in that area, those currently underway and the planned Faculty Office building, the campus will be looking at necessary improvements and will be addressing items such as: parking issues just west of Warmerdam field, lack of restroom facilities in that vicinity, goal of reducing vehicular traffic in that area, provide food service at this end of campus and relocating the trash bin containers to a more centralized location.

One of the main goals is to complete the Bulldog walkway and connect the west end and east end of campus as outlined in the Campus Master Plan. This walkway begins at Campus Pointe through parking lots A and J and continues through the core of the campus, follows along the Peace Garden and ends at Campus Drive.

The university contracted the services of Vernal Group Architects (VGA) to design a space that would serve as a venue for multiple indoor events as well as create an exterior area welcoming to students and suitable for outdoor events.

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Paul Miller of the VGA who proceeded to review phase one of the project, which includes the exterior assembly area. The plan calls for an upward plaza that is adjacent to the assembly room, food services area, and an outdoor café type area with tables and chairs for customers.

The objective is to create a transition elevation area between the north and south gyms and eventually tie the two buildings together. The overall landscape plan involves the installation of brick pavers in the outdoor plaza area and concrete walkway enhancements to the main pedestrian walkway.

Some of the comments posed by the committee in regards to the outdoor landscape were: parking and access for individuals with disabilities, vehicular restrictions in the area, motorcycle/moped parking, whether or not a wall to the west of the area would remain, and what is being planned for the trees that are currently there.

Mr. Wilson assured the committee that ADA compliance is a strong component of every construction project on campus. Accessible parking will remain in lot K and assistance will be coordinated with the SCOUT program and Parking Office. Another item being addressed is the ADA restroom facilities upgrade. The women's restroom is currently closed and has been for some time. Part of the plan is to update and bring those facilities up to code.

The vehicular access point south/west of the North Gym would likely be closed off and remain only open to pedestrian traffic and emergency vehicles. The goal is to increase and promote pedestrian traffic safety in that location. Carts and emergency vehicles, if necessary, will be able to access the area; however, Chair Matson noted the fire lane is along Campus Drive and continues west of the library.

Motorcycle/moped parking will be available.

The existing partial height perimeter outdoor patio concrete walls will be removed. A section will be kept to separate the stand alone utility building. The wall will be softened by the use of a variety of trees.

Mr. Boyd commented that the university is taking extra consideration with the trees in this area, specifically the liquid amber trees. Facilities enlisted the services of a professional to carefully review and provide a recommendation.

Chair Matson asked if there were any additional questions or concerns with the outdoor landscape plan before Mr. Miller proceeded to review the plan for the assembly room.

The assembly room will be approximately 5,800 square feet with a seating capacity up to 500. It will have a window wall that will be facing south. It will also include a glazing treatment to handle the glare relative to video projection and other darkening room needs. The idea is to maintain the monolithic and powerful wall expression.

The assembly hall will have entries on two sides, the east and the south ends, with the primary entry on the east side. Half of the existing balcony will be removed. The space will be used for A/V equipment, telecom, etc.

There are some constraints to the layout because the existing space was a natatorium and limits the stage set up options.

Mr. Miller clarified that the phase of construction will not include the main walkway and other street improvements but only mentioned as reference. Future developments will determine what is done with these improvements and the proposed fire truck turnaround at Campus Drive. Other future improvements include removable bollards at the main pedestrian walkway between the North and South Gymnasiums.

Mr. Halajian commented that the plaza and all the development that is going to take place in that area will be a nice culmination to the walkway, especially as you walk along the Peace Garden. He suggested further consideration to the roundabout/cul-de-sac at the end of campus drive. There seems to be sufficient room in that area to create something transitional and attractive.

Chair Matson asked Dr. Nef if he had any items he would like considered in the plan, specifically as they relate to classroom space or the building's usability for academic programs.

The building will provide an alternative to the Peters auditorium located in the Peters Education Center.

Dr. Boyer suggested adding projection screens to enhance visibility for all audiences. Mr. Boyd mentioned this is being considered in the plan and they may look at some outdoor alternatives as well.

Ms. Astone expressed that this will be a great assembly space and perhaps could be used as overflow study space during finals week. It would also serve a need from a student programming standpoint, since the Satellite Student Union is not always available.

Dr. Nef asked how many benches will be placed in the area. Mr. Wilson stated Wi-Fi access in the area will be great and phase two includes additional seating.

Mr. Vaillancour suggested tightening things up a little bit and adding a seat wall with more trees so as to create a very dense canopy area. This will provide additional seating and provide more shade making it more attractive space for students to enjoy in between classes.

Mr. Kriebs shared that coming from someone who drives and walks this area 10 times a day; this area is in big need of improvements.

Mr. Boyd stated that the project is on a very tight timeline. The target is to send out a request for bids before the end of the fiscal year. Chair Matson suggested the committee move its June meeting up and the committee agreed to the second week in June.

4. Jordan Research Center (*Informational*) – Deborah Adishian-Astone

Ms. Astone provided an update on the Jordan Research Center. The project team has been working with the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences over the past six to eight months to complete the building program. Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects (ZGF) was selected as the project architect.

She reminded the committee that the project was made possible by a very generous gift of \$29 million from Bud and Dee Jordan; Approximately \$20 million will be used to fund the design and construction of this building in addition to establishing a quasi-endowment that will assist with the ongoing research and operational support for this facility.

This will be the first dedicated research building on campus. This interdisciplinary research facility will include wet and dry laboratories for agricultural, engineering, science and math. The building will be located where the existing feed mill and hay storage facilities are currently found. The team is working with the Jordan College on a replacement plan of the hay storage units that will be more efficient for the program and eliminate the need of transporting hay across Barstow Avenue. All the planning is consistent with the Campus Master Plan.

The programming portion of the project has been completed and the architects will be starting schematic design during the month of June with the goal of getting schematic approval from the CSU Board of Trustees in November 2012.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide the committee with an update of the project development. Ms. Astone clarified that the proposed concept plans are very preliminary and represent square footage and site layout only and are not architectural drawings.

Ms. Astone shared some of the program drawings developed by ZGF with the committee.

The building is going to be three stories with both wet and dry research laboratories. The project team went through a very rigorous programming effort with a number of faculty in the mentioned colleges. There was good participation and discussion. There has been regular consultation with the three college deans to ensure that the programming is consistent with academic and research goals of each college.

The building is approximately 23,000 square feet. The area will include dedicated campus parking that would serve the building. An entry would be added off of Woodrow. There may be a need to encroach a little bit upon the adjacent storm drainage basin, as originally anticipated. However, the site plan will not encroach upon the student horse center or the equestrian area. They will stay on the footprint of the feed mill, hay storage area and the detention basin.

The landscape plan has not been developed, but will more than likely incorporate some of the "ag environment" into the landscape design.

The building will include a lobby, conference/training room. It will not include dedicated research labs for individual faculty members. The space, "tenancy" and use will depend on the type of research being done. The layout is being done so as to encourage group interaction amongst the researchers and graduate students/undergrads. The idea is to provide a very modern lab design with free flowing spaces where people working on different projects can interact, work on paperwork and find synergies and opportunities to cooperate.

The second and third floors will have the labs with instrument storage, computer stations, sterilizing and media prep areas, etc. as well as additional project/graduate student interaction areas.

The building will not have faculty offices, only labs and project spaces. Dr. Boyer clarified that the interaction space will have workstations and tables/chairs. The idea is for faculty to retain their campus faculty offices for availability/accessibility to their students.

Dr. Boyer also highlighted that a small open area with a canopy will be added on the west end as a place that could be used to host small receptions. It will also include a small lounge and kitchenette area.

Mr. Kriebs shared that there is a road in that vicinity that is used to transport the horses, and asked if that access point will be obstructed. Ms. Astone replied that it may be that a new access point has to be created for them. She thanked Mr. Kriebs for pointing that out. The project team will work with Athletics in regards to this item as the site plan develops in more detail.

Ms. Astone made note of the additional comments, thanked the committee and also thanked Deans Boyer, Hoff and Nunna who were instrumental in their leadership and collaborative approach to this project and for their support in encouraging broad input from their faculty and researchers. She will have another update for the committee before schematics are completed, which will probably take place near September or October.

#### 5. Other Business

None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.