

CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Meeting: May 20th, 2015 (3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, DTB A144)

Membership			
	Voting:		Ex-Officio:
R	Valerie Kuehne, Co-Chair	√	Ron Proulx
√	Gayle Gorrill, Co-Chair	√	Tony Eder
R	David Castle	R	Bruce Kilpatrick
√	Carmen Charette	√	Joy Davis
R	Katy Mateer	√	Kristi Simpson
R	John Archibald		
R	Thomas Tiedje		Other:
√	Andrew Rowe	√	Joanne McGachie
√	Karena Shaw	√	David Perry
R	Bronte Renwick-Shields (UVSS)	√	Neil Connelly
√	Ada Saab	√	Carmen Mailloux
√	Sheryl Karras	R	Jim Dunsdon
R	Paul Ward	√	Joel Lynn
√	Pete Rose	√	Tom Downie
		√	Ruth Young
			Guests:
			<i>Dialog BC: via video conference</i>
		√	Antonio Gomez-Palacio
		√	Jennifer Fix
		√	Martin Nielsen
√ = In Attendance R = Regrets Noted			

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of March 25th, 2015 were approved as circulated.

3. Remarks from the Chair

Ms. Gorrill noted that the Campus Plan Update project is moving along nicely. She welcomed Ruth Young and Tom Downie to the meeting and explained that items had arisen related to safety and First Nations heritage that warranted their attention. Joel Lynn would also be arriving shortly to participate in discussions involving student residences.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising from the minutes.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence to report.

6. Regular Business

1. Campus Plan Update – Summary of the 10 Emerging Policy Directions

Mr. Nielsen began by emphasizing the importance of aligning the Summary of Emerging Policy Directions with the engagement input received to date. The draft report to be reviewed today is built on this premise. The goal is to secure the Campus Planning Committee (CPC's) approval in proceeding with this set of policy directions.

Mr. Gomez-Palacio added that Dialog BC is looking for the CPC's affirmations and revisions as they arise throughout the presentation. He provided a presentation on the Summary of Emerging Policy Directions. Some of the key points included:

- Renewed commitment to walkability (1) with maps showing the existing pedestrian framework and ways that it could potentially be expanded.
- A compact campus (2) that grows "up" and "tighter" not "out". New building development would be sited in locations that create synergies with existing buildings, are located on parking lots rather than green/open spaces if possible, and energize new and existing activity hubs. The minimum new building height would be increased, with regard for height transitions for the areas of campus next to neighbourhoods.

- Regarding building heights, Ms. Gorrill asked whether the proposal to have a 4-storey minimum included classroom buildings. Mr. Gomez-Palacio suggested that circulation problems can be introduced if classroom buildings are too tall.
- Mr. Connelly noted that the current Campus Plan references a 6-storey maximum. He asked if the maximum should be revised, or perhaps removed. Mr. Gomez-Palacio said that Dialog BC could prepare a height framework map that takes into account transitions to neighborhoods, as this might be more meaningful than defining a universal building height maximum.
- Recognize Ring Road as a ‘people place’ (3) by improving the way that cars, bikes, and pedestrians travel and interact on this road. These improvements would be aimed at creating an animated space for safe travel. Additional tree plantings would be introduced and setbacks reduced, where appropriate.
 - Mr. Rose asked if the intention was to increase pedestrian traffic to Ring Road through the introduction of commercial restaurants, cafés, etc... Mr. Gomez-Palacio said this was not in scope. Ms. Simpson requested a map showing the locations along Ring Road that could have good potential for increased animation.
 - Ms. Charette asked what impact this would have on traffic flow. Mr. Gomez-Palacio said that by changing the character of the road to be more people-oriented, the effect tends to be a calming one, with automobiles traveling at a slower speed.
 - Mr. Connelly brought attention to the fact that a number of the existing buildings were not designed with frontages on Ring Road with frontages that are appropriate to this vision, where the “backs” of buildings face onto Ring Road and are primarily used by service vehicles. Mr. Gomez-Palacio offered that Dialog BC would be providing guidance on how to design service access and multiple entrances.
- Enhance the naturalized areas (4) on campus by establishing a green corridor that frames the campus and contributes to its identity. This includes minimizing the impact of building development in natural areas within Ring Road and increasing pedestrian connections.
 - Ms. Young suggested the importance of explicitly designating local and indigenous species of plants (rather than ornamental, non-native or invasive species) in the enhancement of natural areas.
- Focus on places of “lingering” and social gathering (5). A map showing existing areas of animation was shown, accompanied by a map showing potential new areas. The goal would be to reinforce existing activity hubs and create new ones

that support diverse activities, particularly in the eastern, western, and southern areas of the campus.

- Build buildings that define open spaces with animated frontages (6). Any new buildings would be designed with an intention to reinforce open spaces and connections.
- Improve multi-modal access, circulation and parking (7). This includes considering two-way cycling facilities on Ring Road, the phase-out of surface vehicle parking lots fronting Ring Road, and over time phasing out some surface parking areas in favour of structured lots.
 - Dr. Davis inquired how visitors with mobility challenges are considered in this proposal. Mr. Gomez-Palacio said that short-term parking spots and disability parking would be maintained.
 - Ms. Young said that Elders visiting campus for long-duration events (4-hours+) do not benefit from short term parking, but would in fact benefit greatly from parking opportunities within Ring Road.
 - Mr. Downie said there will be an ongoing need to have parking within Ring Road.
 - Mr. Gomez-Palacio offered that some of these considerations are best addressed operationally, with different kinds of parking passes and pricing schemes.
 - Ms. Simpson said there had been considerable focus on this very question at her round-table during the February workshop. Mr. Gomez-Palacio said they will consider precedents for various parking and two-way cycling schemes.
- In the West side of campus, add definition, life, and visibility (8A) by creating opportunities for new buildings and uses near the Fine Arts facilities.
- In the East end, add a sense of place by focusing a critical mass of uses and residents (8B). This would create opportunities for new residential buildings near current residences and strengthen connectivity to areas within Ring Road.
 - Mr. Lynn said that residences add an interesting flavor to the campus atmosphere and increases the vitality and 24/7 feel. There can be benefits to having distributed residences rather than concentrating them in one particular area on campus. Preferred designs often include retail and food outlets on the ground level, along with social and study spaces, as these tend to have the greatest animation. He also suggested that there are opportunities for residences to partner with faculties in the vicinity.

- Retain flexibility of use in outlying lands (9) such as Cedar Hill Corner and Queenswood until such a time that they are needed to serve UVic’s academic mission.
 - Ms. Gorrill said it is important to reference to campus and community members that these outlying lands are university assets and their designated uses may change over time in accordance with the university’s mission and needs.
 - Ms. Simpson said that that she will be looking to guidance from Ms. Young on how best to engage indigenous communities on these matters.
- Repurpose the Ian Stewart Complex (10) based on expected needs. One option is to explore incorporating student housing geared to mature students.
 - Ms. Saab suggested that there is a need for short term housing for grad students who may be visiting for special cohort study periods or other short term programs and conferences.
 - Dr. Davis said that short term accommodations for visiting academics and administrators could be valuable, as currently they are placed in hotels in downtown Victoria.
 - Ms. Charette asked if there are any partnership opportunities where space might be needed from a research innovation point of view. Ms. Simpson said that this is a good question but is too granular to fit within the scope of Campus Planning and the Plan.

Ms. Gorrill said that throughout the presentation on the 10 Themes, she observed a lot of nodding from Committee Members and that she is pleased with the progress. She felt that the engagement input received so far is in fact well reflected in the Emerging Policy Directions.

Mr. Gomez-Palacio that this is an important moment because it sets the direction forward for the overall Concept Plan. Looking ahead, his team will weave together all of the pieces into a Concept Plan that will be presented at the next CPC meeting in June. The Plan will offer a view of the future built form, open spaces, and circulation on campus.

Ms. Fix presented a timeline of next steps for the Campus Plan Update process.

Ms. Gayle encouraged that all CPC members attend the June 24th CPC meeting where the Concept Plan will be presented. It is important as it frames up the work that Dialog BC will be doing over the summer to prepare an updated draft Campus Plan.

2. Capital Projects Update

Mr. Perry reminded the CPC that May 1st was the grand opening of CARSA. It was a huge milestone and success.

The expansion of the Continuing Studies building will be completed by the end of the year.

CanAssist has now moved out of E Hut, which will be renovated to address space needs for the Civil Engineering program.

Partial closures of the Ian Stewart Complex are currently being undertaken to take advantage of energy cost savings as spaces formerly used by Athletics and Recreation become vacant.

He is also excited that the request for qualification process for consultants is underway for the new six-hundred bed residence. Once a shortlisted set of architectural firms are designated, the request for proposal process will begin (likely in September). Broad interest is expected. At this stage questions about size, design, location, and parking implications, etc... are all to be determined.

Mr. Rose inquired about the status of the Queenswood property. Mr. Perry said that it is currently zoned for health and care related uses and would need to be re-zoned before the university can use it. Currently it is being used for storage, and there is some activity underway to consider other uses.

7. Other Business

Community Liaison

Dr. Davis indicated that a concern was expressed by the Gordon Head Residents Association regarding the large number of students living in Gordon Head. She indicated that this concern is based on assumptions that may not be factually correct and she will be meeting with them to provide some details.

Municipality representatives from Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay will be doing a tour of the campus next week by bike. It is also Bike to Work Week in the community and at the university.

All elected officials are invited to the campus next week for an event called 'Catalyst Conversations' to see how we can all work together to forge partnerships.

Mr. Rose asked if there is a plan to consult with the communities regarding the new residence. Mr. Connelly said yes, community engagement is an important part of the project planning and municipal approval processes.

8. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

9. Next Meeting

Wednesday June 24th, 11:30-1:00
David Turpin Building, A144