Engineering Expansion

Engagement Summary
November 2020

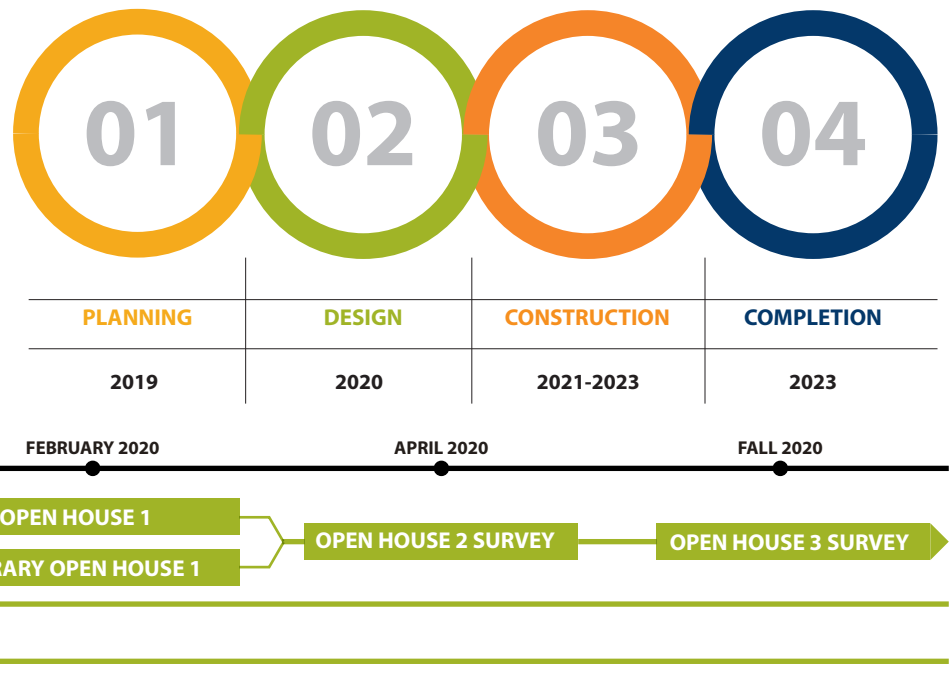University of Victoria | Campus Planning & Sustainability

Introduction

Why We Engage

UVic's Community Engagement Framework outlines the university's commitment to informing the campus and neighbouring communities and facilitating meaningful input into the buildings' designs. This project involves large amounts of complex technical workspace, a condensed design timeline and a desire to inspire the creativity and engagement of the UVic community.

As the future users of the Engineering Expansion, the students, faculty and staff within the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science are central stakeholders in this project. Beyond the project engagement model outlined in the Community Engagement Framework, these stakeholders have participated in informing design decisions through coursework, academic research and collaborative workshops.

The Process

We are early in the design process for the Engineering Expansion. Design will continue through 2020, with opportunities for feedback occurring at project milestones.

01	**02**	**03**	**04**
PLANNING	**DESIGN**	**CONSTRUCTION**	**COMPLETION**
2019	2020	2021-2023	2023

JANUARY 2020	FEBRUARY 2020	APRIL 2020	FALL 2020

- POP-UP DISPLAYS
- ECS OPEN HOUSE 1
- LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE 1
- OPEN HOUSE 2 SURVEY
- OPEN HOUSE 3 SURVEY
- STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
- STUDENT RESEARCH

Full engagement summaries can It can be viewed online at uvic.ca/engineeringexpansion.

The Engineering Expansion will be a beacon of innovation, collaboration and learning for an adaptive and sustainable future.
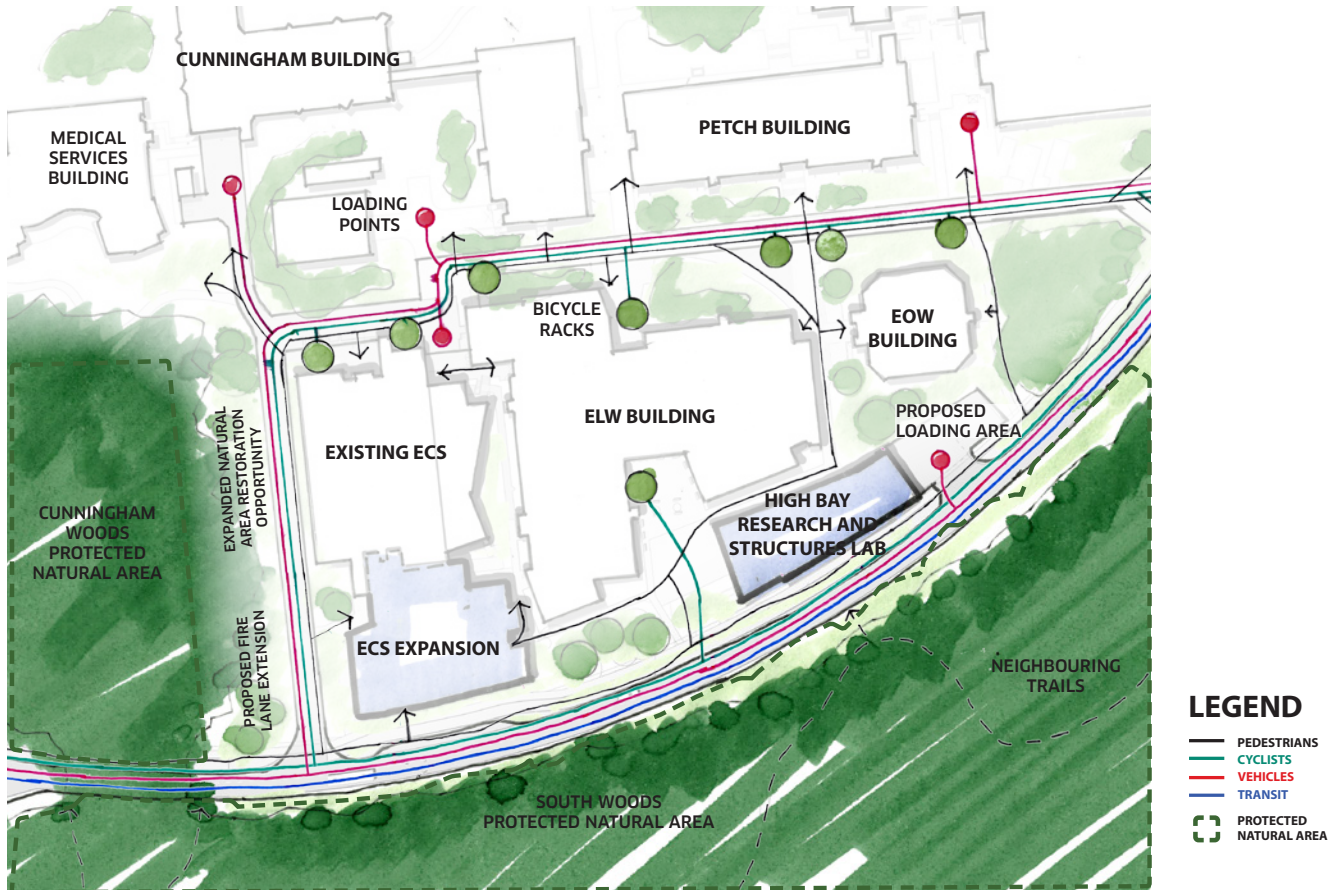

Figure 1. Project Site Plan

About The Project

The University of Victoria is planning an expansion of the Engineering Computer Science (ECS) Building and a new High Bay Research and Structures Lab to meet the current student demand and expected growth of the Engineering and Computer Science Faculty. By adding these two new buildings, UVic will provide additional design studio and lab space along with office and research facilities.

The site area currently includes the Engineering Office Wing (EOW), Engineering Lab Wing (ELW) and the ECS building. Existing space limitations have resulted in the faculty creating temporary lab and design studios across campus. By expanding, UVic will be able to consolidate these temporary facilities into new, purpose-built facilities and continue to provide a dynamic learning environment. The project supports the faculty's goal to construct facilities at the forefront of green building design.

How We Engaged

Spreading the Word

The engagement activities were promoted across campus to raise broad awareness of the project and encourage participation.

Online Open House Survey

👥 **500+**

🕐 **October**

Promotion included:

- Posters on campus as well as posts online through the project webpage and across UVic, Faculty of Engineering and the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Reddit);

- Notices on the UVic events webpage and in the Campus Checklist, a newsletter to all staff and faculty;

- Email invitations to Engineering Students' Society and Engineering student clubs and groups;

- Email invitations to Community Association Liaison Committee to share amongst their networks.

- Email invitations to the alumni network

The purpose of the survey was to consult participants about the design directions of the ECS Expansion and High Bay Research and Structures Lab (HBRSL), including landscape design, building massing and site features.

Of those surveyed, 63% identified as students, 10% as staff, 3% as faculty, 18% as alumni, 1.3% as community neighbours, and 34% identified as other external community members. Similar to the spring open house survey, about half of respondents indicated that they were associated with the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

Almost 70% of the respondents indicated that they had not attended an engagement event so far.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS	STUDENT RESEARCH	ONLINE SURVEY	APPROVALS	MEETINGS
ONGOING	ONGOING	APRIL OCTOBER	ONGOING	ONGOING
			Development Approvals from District of Oak Bay	CALC, UVic Leadership and the District of Oak Bay

Over 500 individuals responded to the open house survey.

Like an open house, the survey provided introductory text to give context to the project and design elements. It also included multiple-choice and open-ended questions and interactive activities. The multiple-choice questions provided an understanding of priorities and preferences whereas the open-ended questions presented opportunities for participants to share recommendations for the project's design team.

The open-ended responses were analyzed to identify themes. Note that the responses could include multiple themes. Where there were a significant sample and variance in themes, the responses were compared between different demographic groups. The demographic groups included:

- Non-ESC community including staff, students, faculty, alumni, neighbours and others who do not have an affiliation with the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

- ECS Community including staff, students, faculty, alumni, and others who do have an affiliation with the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

- Each subset of UVic's broad community including staff & faculty, students, alumni, neighbours & others.
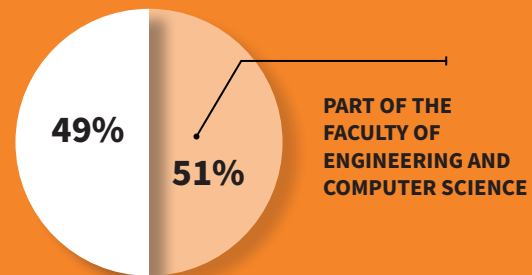
FALL 2020 ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS

510

RELATIONSHIP TO UVIC

4%	COMMUNITY NEIGHBOUR
6%	FACULTY
12%	STAFF
17%	ALUMNI
61%	STUDENTS
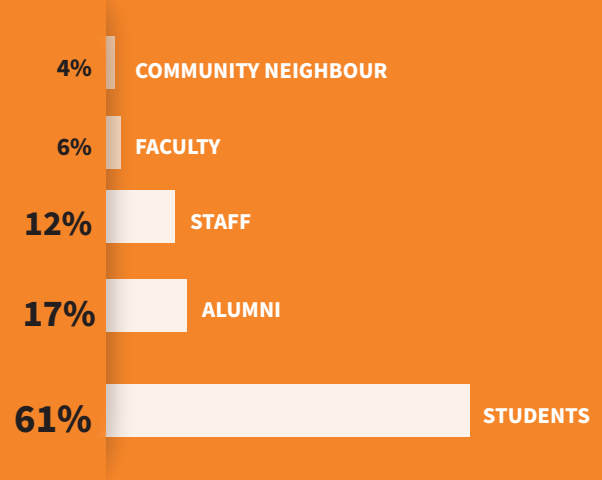
RELATIONSHIP TO THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

49% **51%** PART OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Of the 510 individuals who responded to this question, 51% were part of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

PREVIOUS OPEN HOUSE ATTENDANCE

The majority of survey respondents had not participated in a previous engagement event. This may indicate that this survey reached a new and broader audience.

70%

What We Heard

Project Vision

96% of survey participants felt that the project vision resonated with them. Comments identified the vision statement's focus on sustainability and innovation as critically relevant for UVic and Victoria's long-term competitive advantage.

Project Vision Sentiment

2,(1%)   4,(3%)

143,(96%)

■ Positive sentiment   ■ Negative sentiment   ■ Neutral sentiment
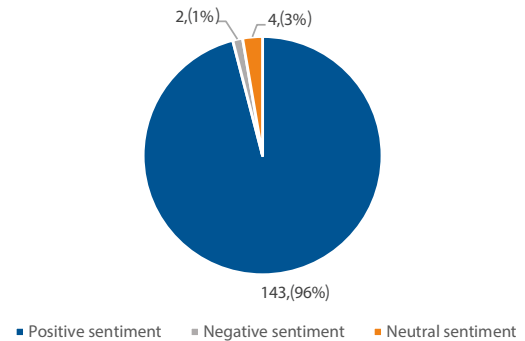
Site Principles

The survey asked participants to check off the principles that most align with their priorities. This group of participants shared similar priorities to those who participated in previous open houses. Principles that support sustainability, improved connectivity and creating visual interest ranked highest. The site principles are ranked below with the number of responses in brackets.

1. Replace each tree removed with three new trees on campus (262)
2. Orient primary frontages along Ring Road to create an engaged pedestrian realm (253)
3. Create visual interest to evoke a sense of arrival to the engineering precinct (227)
4. Design new paths to enhance and connect pedestrian and cycling routes (225)
5. Maximize potential to restore natural landscapes with Indigenous plantings (211)
6. Setback the buildings from Ring Road to implement the Campus Cycling Plan's pathway improvements (168)
7. Visually unite the precinct with signage, landscape features and plantings (95)

Sustainability Priorities

Participants were asked to share which sustainability approaches were most exciting to them. Energy and water efficiency remains the highest priority The sustainability priorities are ranked below with the number of responses in brackets.

1. Energy and Water Efficiency (320)
2. Low Carbon Certification (248)
3. Restoration of Natural Systems (236)
4. Bicycle storage and shower and changing facilities (176)
5. Bird Friendly Design (175)
6. Regenerative Design Approach (171)
7. Integrated Stormwater Management (169)
8. Integrated Stormwater Management (169)
9. LEED Gold V4 Buildings (168)
10. Mass Timber Construction (132)
11. Compact Growth (116)

ECS Expansion Architectural Design

Favoured Design Elements

The survey invited participants to click three of their favourite aspects of the building's design. Over 300 clicks revealed their favourites. The most clicked features created a heat map on the image. The redder the area, the more clicks it received. The most popular features were the wood design elements, rooftop patio, rooftop plants, colourful ground-floor building cladding, the covered main entrance and outdoor seating. The image below shows the results of the heat mapping exercise.

"I like the modern look to the expansion and the open concept that allows for more collaboration space."
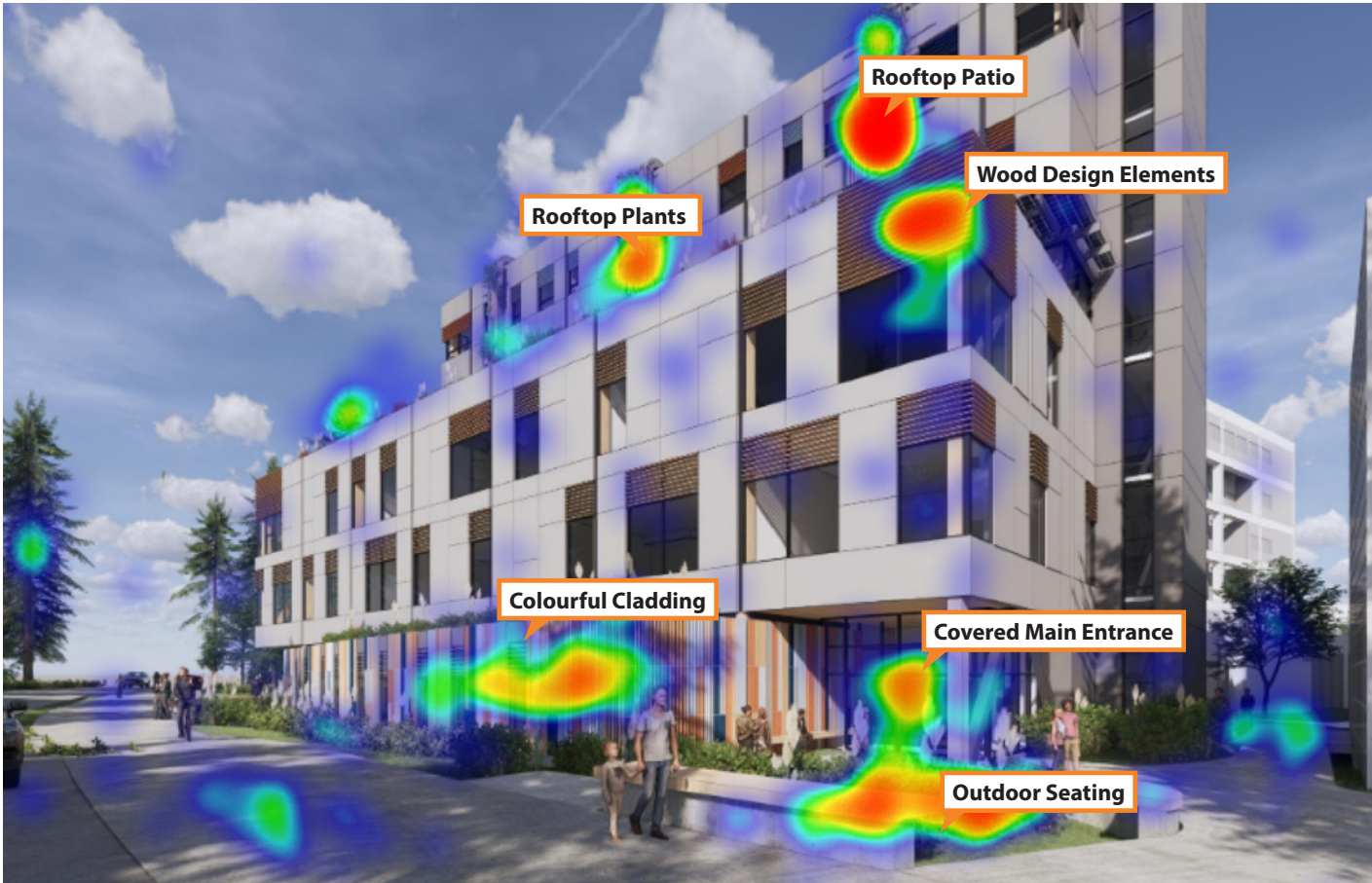

Figure 2. ECS Expansion Schematic Design Rendering With Participant Feedback Heatmap

Overall Sentiment

In an open-ended question, the survey asked respondents to share the aspects of the ECS Expansion architectural design that they prefer, and the aspects that they would like to approve. In analyzing the responses, the majority indicated a positive sentiment, explicitly saying that they viewed the design positively. Some provided general comments or recommendations, indicating a neutral attitude towards the design. Few clearly expressed dislike for some aspects of the design.
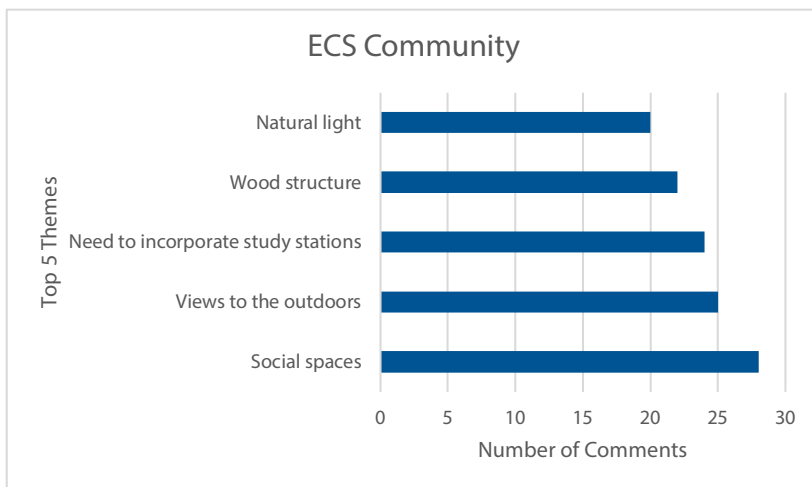
ECS Community

Top 5 Themes (y-axis); Number of Comments (x-axis)

- Natural light — ~20
- Wood structure — ~22
- Need to incorporate study stations — ~24
- Views to the outdoors — ~25
- Social spaces — ~28

Figure 3. Top comment themes from members of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Non-ECS Community

Top 5 Themes (y-axis); Number of Comments (x-axis)

- Open concept spaces — ~13
- Natural light — ~13
- Wood structure — ~19
- Social spaces — ~21
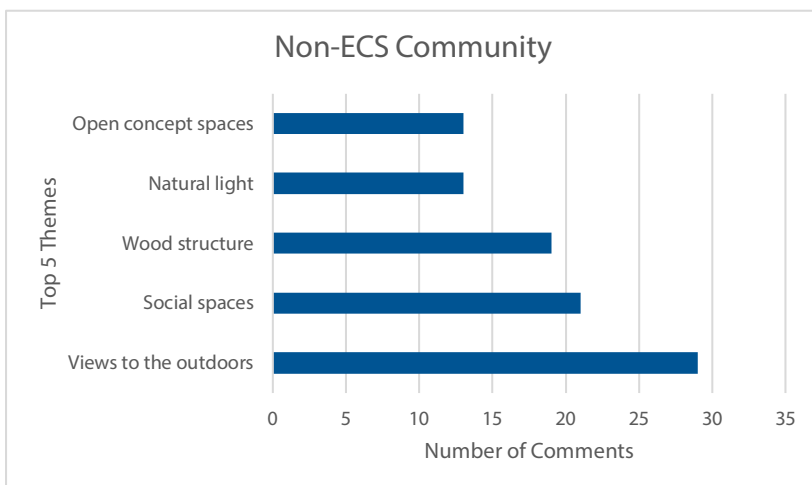- Views to the outdoors — ~29

Figure 4. Top comment themes survey participants outside of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Non-ECS Community Sentiment

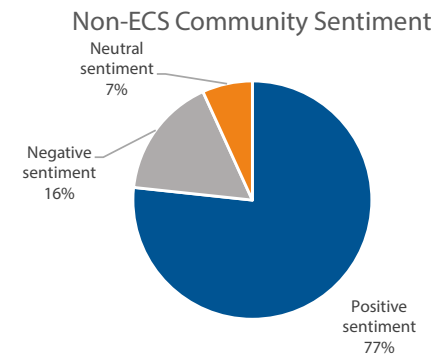- Neutral sentiment 7%
- Negative sentiment 16%
- Positive sentiment 77%

Figure 5. Comment sentiment from survey participants outside of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

ECS Community Sentiment

- Neutral sentiment 12%
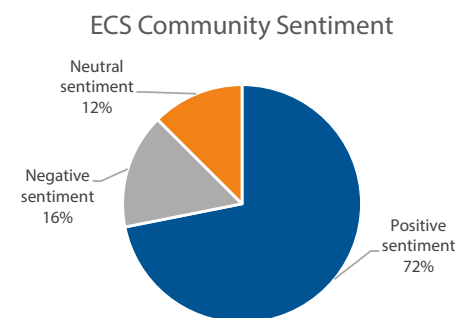- Negative sentiment 16%
- Positive sentiment 72%

Figure 6. Comment sentiment from members of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Common Themes

The project's focus on providing ample natural light and views to the outdoors was a favourite feature among members of the ECS community and those who are not. Both groups also valued social spaces. Members of the ECS community specifically mentioned that they would like to see some of the social spaces fitted with study stations for quiet individual work.

HBRSL Architectural Design

Favoured Design Elements

The survey also invited participants to click three of their favourite aspects of the HBRSL's design. Like on the ECS Expansion image, the most clicked features created a heat map on the image. The redder the area, the more clicks it received. The most popular features were the terraced patio, slanted roof and windows, and the colourful cladding at ground level. The image below shows the results of the heat mapping exercise.

"Sitting on the roof! Love the facade accent design as well, but concerned about how it will fit in with the overall campus aesthetic."

Figure 7. HBRSL Design Rendering With Participant Feedback Heatmap

Overall Sentiment

In an open-ended question, the survey asked respondents to share the aspects of the HBRSL Expansion architectural design that they prefer, and the features that they would like to approve. Overall, the ECS community expressed a greater affinity for the project. In analyzing the responses, the majority indicated a positive sentiment, explicitly saying that they viewed the design positively. About a quarter of respondents provided general comments or recommendations, indicating a neutral attitude towards the design. Few clearly expressed dislike for some aspects of the design.
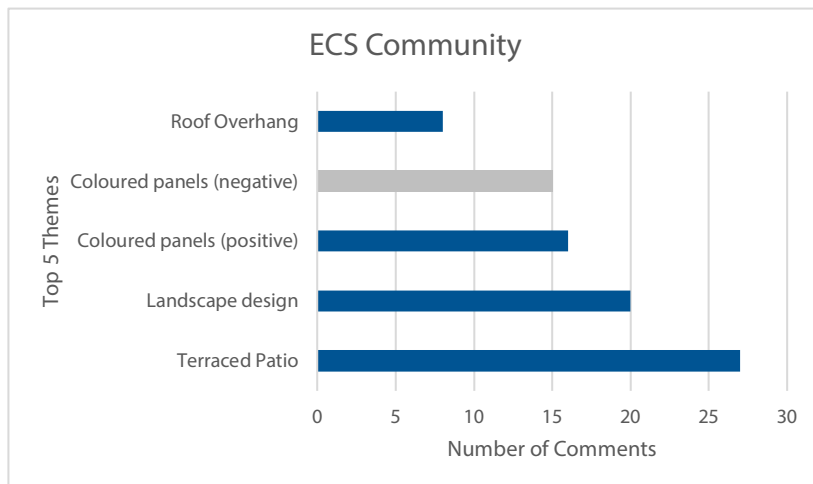
Non-ECS Community Sentiment

Neutral sentiment 10%
Negative sentiment 28%
Positive sentiment 62%

Figure 11. Comment sentiment from members of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

ECS Community Sentiment

Neutral sentiment 8%
Negative sentiment 20%
Positive sentiment 72%

Figure 10. Comment sentiment from survey participants outside of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

ECS Community

Top 5 Themes:
- Roof Overhang
- Coloured panels (negative)
- Coloured panels (positive)
- Landscape design
- Terraced Patio

Number of Comments (0–30)

Figure 8. Top comment themes from members of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Non-ECS Community

Top 5 Themes:
- Incorporate more greenery
- Roof overhang
- Coloured panels (negative)
- Landscape design
- Terraced Patio

Number of Comments (0–20)

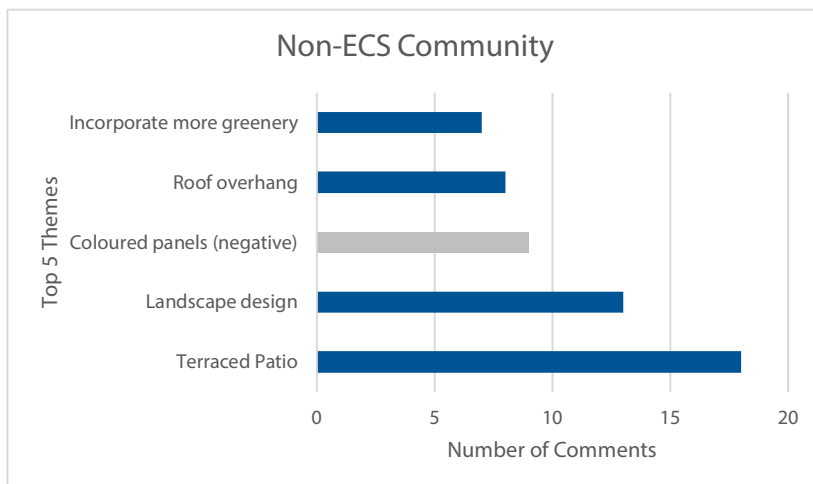**Figure 9.** Top comment themes survey participants outside of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

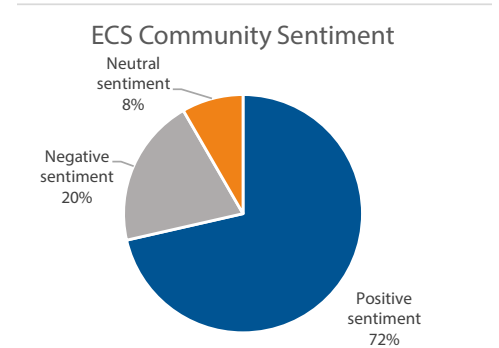## Common Themes

The terraced patio space was the most commented on feature of the building. Many expressed enthusiasm for it being used as a social area and outdoor learning space. The coloured panels were a polarizing subject. Many expressed their positive support, and many expressed their dislike for the design feature.

Engineering Expansion Area Site Plan

Favoured Design Elements

The survey introduced the proposed site plan and invited participants to click three of their favourite design elements. Like the other heat map activities, the most clicked features created a red area on the image. The redder the area, the more clicks it received. The most popular features were the stormwater features and entry plazas.

"The only way to preserve the natural surroundings is to build up. New buildings on campus should go ask high as they safely can."
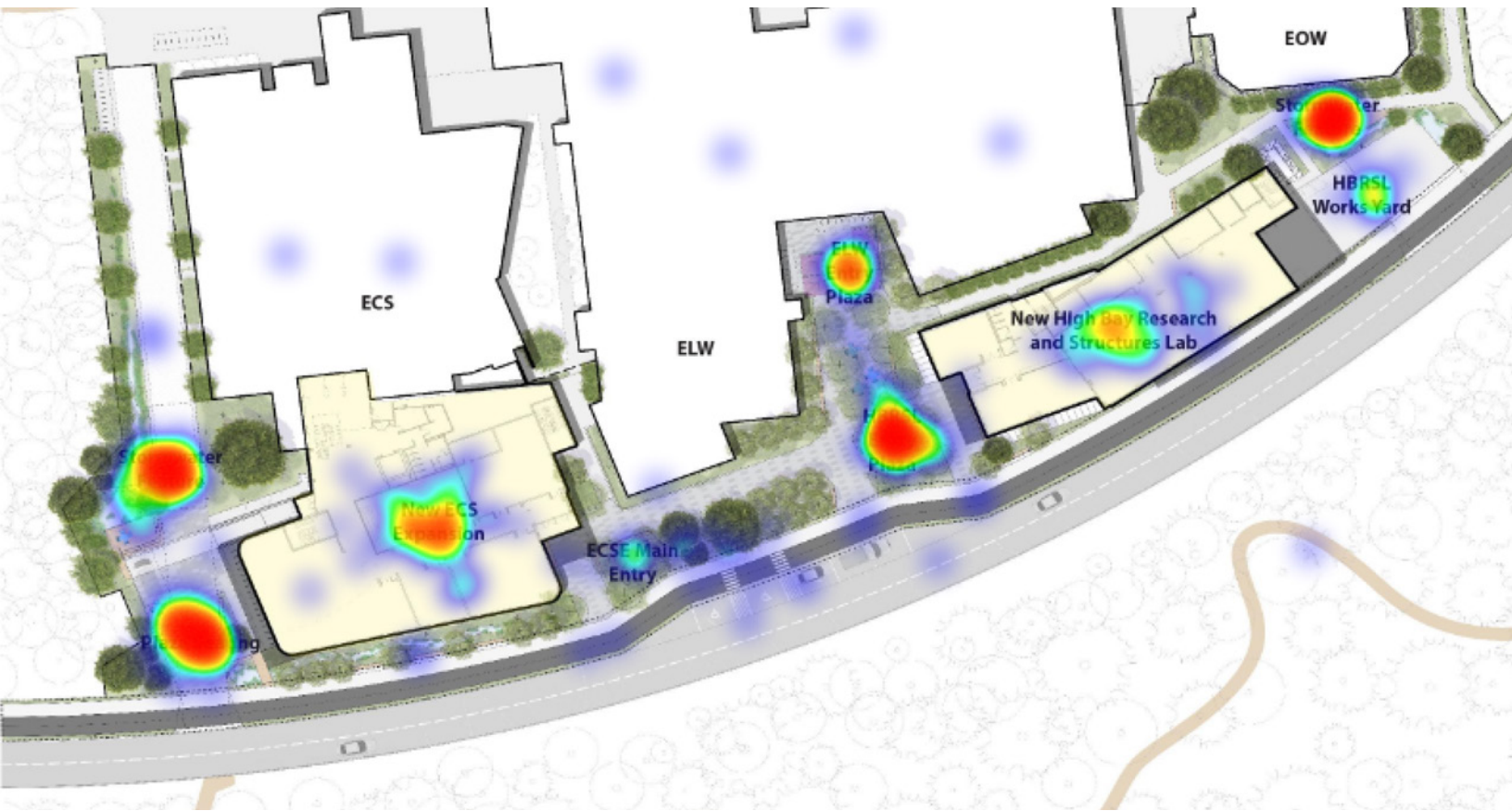

Figure 12. Site Plan Design Rendering With Participant Feedback Heatmap

Building Massing

Key Themes

The survey described the rationale for seeking a height variance from the District of Oak Bay for the project. At 88%, nearly all respondents agreed with the ECS Expansion's rationale for seeking a building height variance. Comments noted that UVic should be pursuing a compact growth strategy that the proposed design fits into the campus context.
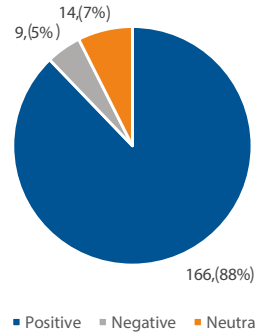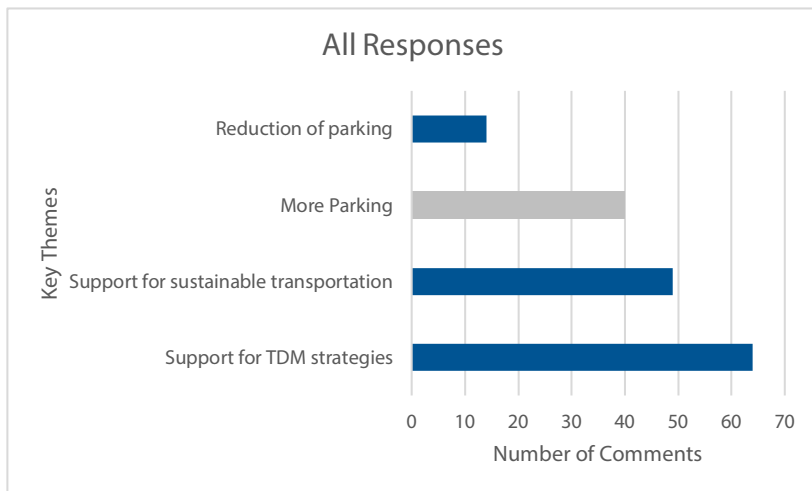
Sentiment - All Participants

14,(7%)
9,(5%)
166,(88%)

■ Positive ■ Negative ■ Neutral

Figure 13. Comment sentiment from all survey participants.

Transportation Approach

Key Themes

All Responses

Reduction of parking
More Parking
Support for sustainable transportation
Support for TDM strategies

Key Themes

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70
Number of Comments

"I love the focus on biking, as it was my primary way to get around campus when I studied there, but found there was a lack of infrastructure at the time."
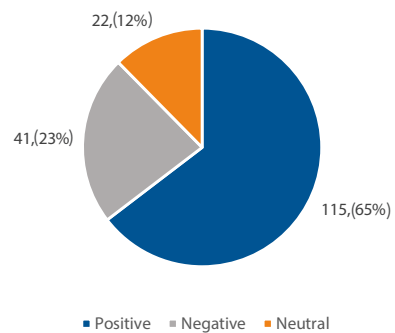
Sentiment - All Participants

22,(12%)
41,(23%)
115,(65%)

■ Positive ■ Negative ■ Neutral

Figure 14. Comment sentiment from all survey participants.

The survey also described the rationale for seeking a parking variance from the District of Oak Bay for the project. The majority of respondents agreed with the ECS Expansion's rationale for seeking a parking variance. Most comments expressed staunch support for more sustainable transportation methods and transportation demand management strategies. Approximately a quarter of respondents would like to see more parking at the project site and on UVic's campus more generally.

Next Steps

Following Council consideration of the porject, the project team will continue to update campus and community stakeholders on project developments.

01	02	03	04
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POP-UP DISPLAYS

ECS OPEN HOUSE 1

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE 1

OPEN HOUSE 2 SURVEY

OPEN HOUSE 3 SURVEY

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

STUDENT RESEARCH