BENTZ / THOMPSON / RIETOW

ARCHITECTURE · URBAN DESIGN · PLANNING · INTERIORS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 24, 2015

SUBJECT: BSU Academic Learning Center
               BTR No.: 1513

On Tuesday, June 23, 2015 a Steering Committee meeting was held at BSU. Present at the meeting were:

Colleen Greer	BSU
Randy Westhoff	BSU
Michelle Frenzel	BSU
Shawn Strong	BSU
Geri Olson	BSU
Jeff Sande	BSU
Robb Carothers	BSU
Troy Gilbertson	BSU
Sachel Josefson	BSU
Ann Voda	BTR
John Bergford	BTR
Erica Boyles	BTR

The team reviewed construction cost analysis, renovation progress, new building preliminary options, classrooms status, schedule and next steps. Summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Construction Cost Analysis

    Ann reviewed the budget spreadsheet that shows the Pre-Design amounts and the updated numbers. The "design to" amount on bid day is $15 million. This is reduced by the State of MN escalation factor to $13.35 million. This number includes a 10% design contingency and is based on areas calculated from updated CAD backgrounds (Note: the new targeted budget in today's dollars of $13,350,000 does not include abatement or construction contingency).

    Preliminary predesign budget verification indicates we are $1.5M over budget.

    Consequently, some alterations to reduce scope and/or area will be necessary. The design team brought forth the following strategies for discussion:

    -   Omit the ceramics studio addition to Bridgeman
    -   Significantly reduce scope of work in the library (eliminate all remodeling and reduce renewal area by half except for that required for Writing Center and Tutoring; use furniture solutions for other programs).
    -   Proportionally reduce each program area or omit certain programmed areas in the new Academic Learning Center
    -   Omit the tiered lecture hall in the new ALC and possibly remodel theatre in Bangsberg
    -   Provide flat-floored lecture hall and use technology to facilitate sight lines and access to instructor (allowing future flexibility to remodel into 2 large classrooms or other programs)
    -   Do no work on 3rd Floor Bensen except remodel the Anthropology Lab into a larger general classroom.
    -   Preserve one classroom on 4th Floor Bensen and fit HSHE Dean on that floor as well.

        Each idea was discussed in turn when the corresponding program or building was presented in the progress review:

2. Schematic Design progress review

2nd Floor Sattgast

General strategy was to move more area from the renovate category into the less-extensive "renew" category. Provides 12 Math/Computer Science offices, versus 14 requested in focus group meeting. CAS Dean's Suite remains in current area but is expanded to accommodate space for all required staff.
The Math Help Center is shown in the smaller portion of 248, with the GIS computer lab taking up the remainder of that space.
The Math Library/Study is co-located with the faculty offices.

- Could take the windowed receptionist space from the Dean's suite and create a new faculty office there.
- Math Help Center might be moved to the Library next to the Writing Center and Tutoring Center to create a centralized Student Services area. The Math Library could then be moved to this space in 248.

3rd Floor Sattgast

(11) offices have been provided, which matches request in focus group meeting.
Geography Labs have been provided per Pre-Design and focus group meeting requirements.
Geography space for small group "media-supported" study that was not programmed in the Pre-Design and was requested in the focus group meeting is not accommodated in Sattgast and is projected for Clark Library, since some of the scope in Clark includes collaborative learning spaces.
More information is needed about the BSU Faculty Association (BSUFA) program and space needs. For now it's shown in 347, with collaborative space shown adjacent.

- Could BSUFA possibly be moved off-campus?

1st Floor Bangsberg

Spaces are provided as outlined in the Pre-Design, with (6) offices for Philosophy and History, per the focus group meeting.
Program elements slated for the second floor such as a Study Center and a Support Staff Center were moved to the 1st floor to off-load program from the second floor and well as provide a building control element on the 1st floor. A conference room has also been retained on the 1st floor.
Music program spaces are where indicated in the Pre-Design.
More area is designated as renewal rather than renovated (as opposed to the Pre-Design).

2nd Floor Bangsberg

(23) offices for English/Languages are provided, as opposed to (26) requested in the Focus Group meeting.
A Conference Room has been retained on the 2nd floor.
Collaborative Spaces have been provided in a variety of configurations, defined both by furniture and enclosed small conference-type rooms, in the general vicinity of what the Pre-Design called the "Humanities Commons" or "Learning Co-op".
A Work Room & Storage area can be further defined to accommodate the projected need and an existing kitchenette area has been retained to be refreshed.
Current Madrigal Dinner storage areas have been appropriated for offices, so another space will need to be assigned for this.

3rd Floor Bangsberg

Per the Pre-Design, practice rooms will be converted to a Keyboard Lab and Music Departmental space (office, work room, and lounge) and offices will be converted to Conference and Student Lounge spaces.

3rd Floor Bensen

While also not included in the Pre-Design, the area totals do not include any renewal scope in the existing west or south Education office areas.

Includes renewal of Criminal Justice office areas, as was shown in the Pre-Design (although scope may be minimal).

Retains the current (5) CJ offices, versus (6) requested in Focus Group meeting, though other office spaces in the CJ corridor appear unassigned and may be available for use as expansion or Education offices (if needed).

Projects renewal of current Faculty Lounge as dual-purpose Lounge and Conference Room.

Projects conversion of Anthropology Lab and Education Office/Conference space into General Classrooms, as was shown in the Pre-Design.

Projects "renewal" of current classrooms 351 & 352 rather "renovation" as was shown in the Pre-Design.

Projects (14) total Education offices, versus (17) requested in Focus Group meeting.

Projects conversion (renewal) of existing lounge into Collaborative Space.

Projects leaving the toilet rooms "as is".

- The 2 middle, interior CJ offices are not used at all currently. Six CJ offices would be ideal.

4th Floor Bensen

The HSHE Dean's Office has been relocated to this floor.

All departmental program areas and offices from the Pre-Design, which were redefined and elaborated upon during the Focus Group meetings, have been provided.

The current floor plan leaves the existing toilets rooms as is, whereas the Pre-Design diagrams suggested relocating and reconstructing them new.

The small shared computer lab (6-10 stations) is still provided, subject to further campus-wide consideration of the strategy of computer labs, shared and/or dedicated, and their appropriate location.

- Michelle brought forth a new idea – the HSHE Dean's Suite could be located on 3rd Floor where the current Dept. Chair offices are located, instead of renovating that area as a classroom. Then a classroom on 4th floor could be retained. All agreed that this was a viable option to explore further.

1st Floor AC Clark Library

An expansion of the existing Computer Lab is anticipated, though the configuration is still TBD.

The Map Library is relocated to the enlarged (combined) renovated space, as shown in the Pre-Design.

- The Computer Lab is actually a locked and scheduled Computer Classroom that currently seats 24, but would like to increase capacity to 32. The next door space is wired the same, so it could be easily expanded into that area.

3rd Floor AC Clark Library

Renovations include areas for the Writing and Tutoring Centers.

An allowance of renewal is being provided to this floor, and program needs more definition.

- Need to discuss library program and budget. The program requirements were not well-defined in either the Pre-Design or the focus group meeting.

- Creating a "Student Services Center" on the 3rd Floor makes programmatic sense and can help off-load some of the spaces that were slated in the Pre-Design to be adjacent to the faculty office areas. It could function like a "shopping mall" for help and assistance.

- Sachel presented a compelling case for not decreasing the scope of work in the library: most of the discussion and work so far has focused on the faculty and making sure they each had a functional home, but this part of the project is about the students. Students come to campus because of these kinds of common spaces, not because faculty are in certain offices or locations. The library is a key component to providing value to students,

and in recruitment and retention. If this space is a great place to be, then students will feel engaged and valued and want to hang out on campus; the library could be a destination, not just a storage space for books or a computer lab. It would form a triangular hub with the Union and the new ALC to be the heart of student-centered space on campus.
- The group agreed that we need to keep library renovations in the project scope, and that we need to form a meeting group to define what these renovations should entail. Finding best practices for learning commons and student service centers should be part of that process as well.
- Programs to be on the 3rd Floor may include: the Writing Center, the Tutoring Center, IT Help Desk, Geography's Media-Supported Study, Math Help Center, Language Lab, Java City coffee shop (moved from the Union), Reference Desk, and a variety of group collaborative spaces. This will be further refined as schematic design progresses. Collaborative zone could also include high-top tables with outlets and plug-ins, and group spaces with screens to plug in laptops and share displays.

Academic Learning Center

The new footprints have proportionally reduced square footage and two have omitted the computer lab. The first two options differ in the amount of circulation space and commons space. The third option includes the computer lab but omits the lecture hall.
Each option is oriented basically the same way, to the north side of the site.

- The group discussed several options for the large lecture hall: omitting, including but with a flat floor (for future flexibility), renovating the theatre space in Bangsberg in lieu of building a new one in the ALC. Although large survey/lecture classes will likely become less and less common as pedagogies evolve, many non-class events are held on campus which would use this space. The current Hagg-Sauer lecture hall holds 500. The new lecture hall is large enough @ 350, however. Since it will be used for non-class events and performances, including the tiered floor seems to makes sense.
- Consensus was reached that we should still include the lecture hall in the new building for the following reasons:
  a. ALC is a better place geographically for holding non-class events (more central, shows off more of the campus & the lake, not at the very edge of campus like Bangsberg)
  b. Switching back and forth between performance space and classroom space (if using the theatre in Bangsberg) is difficult. It was noted that Bangsberg spaces will need to be used for classes when Hagg-Sauer is demolished and the new building is under construction.
  c. The capacity of the theatre in Bangsberg is less than what's needed for the lecture hall/event space
  d. The lecture hall/event space gives the new building a special weight or importance – the ALC would suffer without it

  - Special Programs: what programs are included? How many offices and/or staff are required? Some could potentially move to the Library.

3. Computer Lab Discussion

Robb clarified that there is a difference between Computer Classrooms and Computer Labs. The former are scheduled like regular classrooms and generally not open outside of class time. The labs are open on a drop-in basis and are staffed by students to help with printing and troubleshooting, etc. The space on the first floor in the library is a Computer Classroom. Computer science has a dedicated Computer Classroom in SG 371. Memorial Hall will have 2 Computer Labs (31 seats each) when renovations are complete – the monitors recede into the desks in these labs so the rooms can be used as general classrooms. The new ALC and the library will also have one Computer Lab each.

Robb stated the Computer Labs exist to provide access to software. Even if students have their own laptops, they may not have the software they need for their classes or assignments.

Currently, the departmental Computer Classrooms that will remain are: Computer Science, Psychology/Social Work, Geography (GIS Lab), Music Listening, and three in Bridgeman.

4. Summary & Next Steps

In summary, the topics that need more information and/or exploration include:

Classroom scenario (and the possible space configurations on 3rd and 4th floor Bensen)
Library program

Next Steps include:

Determine detailed scope of each remodeling/renewal area in existing buildings (so that "renewal" and "renovation" become overly broad, obsolete categories). Use that information to create a more refined cost estimate.

Create a focus group meeting for planning the library program.

Get updated floor plans to Colleen to distribute to faculty.

CC: Attendees