Meeting Notes

Attendees: Kristy Alster, Elsa Auerbach, Aimee Blaquiere, Shaun Curry, Diane D’Arrigo, Christine DePalma, John Drew, Brian Dumser, Peter Langer, Peter McClure, Anita Miller, Dorothy Renaghan, Julie Sanabria, Zehra Schneider-Graham, Nancy Stieber, Charlie Titus, Jack Wiggin, Sue Wolfson

The meeting convened at 10:00am. Sue Wolfson welcomed steering committee members to the meeting.

Master Plan Update

Sue Wolfson provided the steering committee with an update on master planning efforts. The program for the Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) has been determined and the study for it is currently being completed. It is anticipated that the study will be certified by the Commonwealth’s Designer Selection Board at the end of January. Following study certification, schematic design will begin (an estimated 12 month process). It is expected that construction for the ISC will be completed in fall 2013.

The campus continues to collaborate with the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) and the UMass Building Authority (UMBA) on utility and roadwork projects. Arup, an engineering and planning firm, has completed a utilities master plan while Howard/Stein-Hudson has completed a transportation report for the campus as part of the campus master planning effort. The campus is working closely with both DCAM and UMBA on acquiring engineering services relative to the study and potential design of an interim traffic management plan to address the traffic impacts associated with the construction and operation of the ISC until a final loop road and a utility corridor are constructed.

A steering committee member asked if the city owned University Drive. Sue Wolfson clarified that University Drive is campus property and does not belong to the city. As the campus continues to study University Drive, and in particular, University Drive North as it relates to Mount Vernon Street, it will work and plan closely with the City of Boston.

Planning for the General Academic Building has started and the steering committee (comprised of most of the deans, the vice provost for information technology, and the provost) is currently
working on crafting a vision statement for this building. In addition, the campus is collaborating with DCAM on a campus space allocation plan. The plan will provide a framework for planning and programming space - to guide the development of new facilities and to ensure the strategic use of existing facilities. The steering committee will be responsible to determine the space program for the General Academic Building.

A steering committee member inquired on how faculty members will be represented in the planning for this building. The member was concerned about space needs on campus that planners may not be aware of (such as a department’s need for tutoring space). The steering committee suggested that faculty and the campus community be solicited through a memo regarding this topic. The General Academic Building’s steering committee will be developing a process to invite the broader campus community into the planning process.

A steering committee member inquired about the campus strategic planning goal to meet 15,000 students by 2010. As this goal has almost been realized, the committee member was curious to the implications on master planning. In an effort to project for student, faculty, and staff growth, the planning number of 18,000 students was selected to be used for the first phase (the first 10 years) of the campus master plan.

A steering committee member asked if the General Academic Building could be more than one building and if these buildings could highlight specific academic programs. As one of the guiding principles of the master plan is to foster interdisciplinary programs and collaborations through the integration of space functions, buildings that are discipline specific will not be pursued. One steering committee member also mentioned that under this concept, non-academic and co-curricula activities regarding student life and other social activities, would also reside in academic facilities as one method of helping to meet student needs. Architects can assist the campus in designing creative and flexible facilities that benefit and provide identity to the multitude of academic and co-curricula programs that exist and will exist at UMass Boston.

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute (EMK) for the United States Senate is currently in the conceptual design project development phase. UMass Boston continues to engage in conversations with EMK planners regarding how to physically integrate the EMK facility into the campus.

**Boston Redevelopment Authority Master Plan Update**

In August 2007, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) began a process to prepare a Master Plan for the Columbia Point peninsula. It is expected that this plan will be finalized in early 2010. Copies of the plan’s executive summary were distributed to steering committee members and can be accessed [here](#). A draft of the report can also be found [here](#). The plan’s goals include creating a comprehensive vision and sustainable plan for Columbia Point, ensuring
adequate transportation infrastructure to support new development, improving connections to and within Columbia Point, enhancing the public realm (especially for pedestrians), and coordinating plans for new development. The BRA has been advocating for a direct connection (for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians) between Bianculli Boulevard and University Drive West in an effort to support a straight path to other aspects and areas on Columbia Point. UMass Boston maintains that this is not feasible given that a new roadway would cut across BC High and Corcoran Jennison property and would negatively impact traffic control on the campus.

In early December, the BRA hosted its most recent community-wide meeting and UMass Boston was in attendance. The BRA also continues to help the community understand the master planning process. The community and various stakeholders have provided and submitted many comments on the plan. Many of these comments can be accessed and reviewed here. Steering committee members asked about the topics that are of most concern and interest to Columbia Point neighbors. Some neighbors have expressed concern about the number and heights of new buildings and traffic. There are many synergies between UMass Boston’s master plan and the BRA’s master plan (such as the goal to improve connections to and within Columbia Point and to enhance pedestrian pathways). The campus continues to work closely with the BRA and expects to coordinate planning efforts with it as time moves forward, especially on enhancing road and pedestrian networks.

**Architectural and Landscape Technical Advisory Subcommittee**

Christine DePalma provided an update to the steering committee on the Architectural and Landscape Technical Advisory Subcommittee. This master plan subcommittee has been charged to develop and recommend design guidelines and built-form parameters for all campus buildings and to develop and recommend standards and guidelines for green, open spaces. The subcommittee will be convened in early 2010 to meet for the first time. A draft list of architectural and landscape design elements (ranging from built form and open space design elements to design elements for furnishings and equipment and landscape materials) was also distributed to the steering committee for discussion. The design elements presented on this list are examples of topics that the subcommittee may explore within its work. The committee will work to recommend and develop guidelines that can be used as a tool for architects working on future buildings at UMass Boston. These guidelines will be flexible enough to provide architects and planners with room for creative design and will also provide them with insight on how the campus community would like the campus to look.

A steering committee member noted that the subcommittee should consider focusing some of its efforts on sustainability and the campus relationship with the waterfront. Another steering committee member noted that the subcommittee may also want to explore long-term replacement costs (and long-term continuity) for furnishings and equipment.
Parking and Transportation Technical Advisory Subcommittee

Christine DePalma also provided an update to the steering committee on the Parking and Transportation Technical Advisory Subcommittee. This subcommittee has reconvened and will be continuing its work over the next several months with the goal of submitting its final report by mid-June. In addition, the subcommittee has recruited an undergraduate student member and is in the process of recruiting additional faculty members. The subcommittee recently reviewed and shared its comments on the Howard/Stein-Hudson Transportation Report. Early this spring, the subcommittee will also reach out to the broader campus community in an effort to solicit feedback from it on parking and transportation topics related to master planning efforts.

Athletics and Recreation Technical Advisory Subcommittee Update

Vice Chancellor Charlie Titus provided a brief update to the steering committee on the Athletics and Recreation Technical Advisory Subcommittee. A joint taskforce comprised of representatives from UMass Boston and Boston College High School met recently to discuss a plan for a joint baseball complex. Vice Chancellor Titus is hopeful that the two groups will have a mutually beneficial plan to move forward with soon. In addition, a Wellness Center group has convened (comprised of representatives from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, University Health Services, Human Resources, and Student Affairs) to discuss programs for the center and site recommendations.

2010 Meeting Schedule

The steering committee will continue to meet bimonthly in 2010, beginning in February. A schedule for the spring semester will be sent to the committee shortly following feedback from faculty members on their teaching schedules.

Note: Following feedback from faculty steering committee members on their teaching schedules, the spring meetings have been scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, February 17
11:00am-1:00pm (Location TBD)

Wednesday, April 21
11:00am-1:00pm (Chancellor’s Conference Room)