Meeting Notes

Attendees: Elsa Auerbach, Jennifer Brown, Caroline Coscia, Shaun Curry, Diane D’Arrigo, Christine DePalma, John Drews, Peter Langer, Steve Martinson, Peter McClure, Ellen O’Connor, Daniel Ortiz, Dorothy Renaghan, Julie Sanabria, Michael Shiaris, Nancy Stieber, Holly Sutherland, Kathy Teehan, Jack Wiggin, Susan Wolfson

Sue Wolfson convened the meeting and the meeting’s agenda which was previously shared with Steering Committee members via email. The agenda included a discussion of the following topics:

- Architecture and Landscape Design Guidelines
- Quality of Life Advisory Committee Update
- Transportation Planning Focus Group
- Public Art Planning
- Updates on Master Plan Projects
- Spring 2012 meetings

These notes will present highlights of the meeting organized by agenda item.

Architecture and Landscape Design Guidelines
Sue Wolfson introduced the campus architecture and landscape design guidelines that have been proposed by the Architecture and Landscape Design Technical Advisory Subcommittee. The guidelines will serve as a tool for creating a cohesive, attractive, productive, accessible and sustainable campus environment. She explained that these guidelines were previously distributed via email and presented to the Master Plan Steering Committee at a special meeting that was scheduled in October 2011. Sue also mentioned that representatives from the Office of Campus Master Planning are presenting the guidelines to various stakeholder groups, including the Faculty Council, the Quality of Life Advisory Committee, and student government bodies. She distributed a one page summary document that described the outreach process and feedback collected to date. This document is available for review at the end of these notes.

Sue asked Steering Committee members for comments on the guidelines. Members shared the following comments and questions:

- The guidelines document should include an executive summary.
- Additional graphics of the future campus should be made available. Graphics may help campus community members understand that everyone will benefit from the new campus infrastructure and landscape.
- Do the guidelines address the concept of sheltered walkways? This question inspired a spirited discussion amongst committee members.
Ellen O’Connor mentioned that throughout the Master Planning development process that protection from the elements was always a chief concern raised by campus community members. She explained that each and every architectural and planning firm that has worked with the campus has discussed and studied this concept.

Peter Langer mentioned that as the campus expands that future buildings and destinations will be more than 3 minutes apart from each other. He went on to say that there isn’t universal consensus that a catwalk or enclosed bridge system is needed to connect all campus buildings in the future.

Steve Martinson mentioned that the campus offers more handicapped spaces than required by law. He also mentioned that there is a process by which the Registry of Motor Vehicles grants temporary Handicap license plates.

Peter McClure advised that the campus consider advice and recommendations made by architects working with the campus regarding catwalk connections. He also wondered how much money could be saved by no building catwalks.

Sue also mentioned that additional feedback can be shared with her or other staff members from the Office of Campus Master Planning. The guidelines can be found online at:

**Quality of Life Advisory Committee Update**

Diane D’Arrigo, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Services, provided the Steering Committee with an update on Quality of Life Advisory Committee efforts. She explained that Committee members serve as campus construction ambassadors and that they advise on construction communication strategies and tactics. Committee membership is evolving and includes faculty, student, and staff representatives from many departments, programs, and areas. Elsa Auerbach wondered if each department on campus could have a representative to the Committee. Diane mentioned that this is a model that can be explored as membership continues to develop.

**Transportation Planning Focus Group**

Diane D’Arrigo also introduced the meeting’s next agenda topic, transportation planning. She explained that over the next few weeks that she, in collaboration with representatives from the Quality of Life Advisory Committee and the Department of Transportation Services, would be hosting several transportation planning focus groups on campus. The focus groups have been set up in an effort to support the implementation of UMass Boston’s Master Plan. At the focus groups, transportation research that has been completed by the campus to date will be discussed and participants will be provided with an opportunity to share their ideas, questions, and concerns about transportation planning efforts, opportunities, and challenges.

Diane described three main goals for these focus group sessions:

1. To educate the campus community about transportation changes
2. To reassure the campus community that planning is happening; and
3. To provide a feedback loop

To help summarize some of the transportation planning research that has been completed to date, Diane distributed the recently completed and published Parking and Transportation Technical Advisory Subcommittee report’s Executive Summary. The report in its entirety was previously emailed to the Steering Committee for review and feedback. It can be accessed here:
Diane mentioned a variety of transportation realities to the Steering Committee, including:

- Nearly 30% of the existing campus landscape is utilized for parking.
- The Edward M. Kennedy Institute project has taken over part of Lot A. 100 spaces have been lost.
- There will be an increased number of contractors on campus this spring due to a heavy period of construction activity for the ISC project.
- The North Lot will soon be taken off line to help facilitate the construction of the General Academic Building No. 1.
- The Bayside property will be operated as a parking lot beginning in Spring 2012. A campus shuttle will run from the lot to the Campus Center.

Diane mentioned that the Parking and Transportation Subcommittee and other campus representatives have studied and recommended a variety of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies for the campus to implement. TDMs are strategies that reduce single occupancy vehicles and promote alternative forms of transportation including public transportation, ride sharing, and bicycling. Other examples of TDMs include pricing, education and awareness, and employer based programs such as flexible hours and telecommuting.

Diane invited Steering Committee members to participate in a dialogue with her. Comments included:

- Elsa Auerbach suggested that the campus implement cheaper parking at Bayside. She said that this may help to promote better planning by students. If they choose to park at Bayside for cheaper parking then they will plan extra time into their schedule rather than to be diverted to Bayside because there are no available parking spaces on the main campus. Other Steering Committee members supported this idea.
- Elsa Auerbach also suggested that improve the pedestrian experience from the Bayside property to the main campus. She suggested painting lines on the ground to show the route between them.
- Peter McClure suggested that the campus consider subsidizing deeper discounts on MBTA passes for students, faculty, and staff. Currently students are provided with an 11% discount on MBTA passes.
- Michael Shiaris wondered if the campus could explore incentives to promote alternative modes of transportation that are tied to health and wellness.
- Michael Shiaris also wondered if campus community members could opt in to campus transportation updates and alerts (through email or text messages).
- Kathy Teehan mentioned that students may be motivated to park at Bayside because many of them prefer to be dropped off at the Campus Center rather than to walk to a building from a campus parking lot. She also mentioned that parking lots should always be open and that parking commuters should have their choice of lots to park in should spaces be available. Kathy also mentioned that as campus changes occur that reserved parking for Admissions must be accommodated.
- Julie Sanabria noted that when there are large events on campus that the campus community should know so they can plan parking strategies accordingly. Julie also wondered if electronic signage could be used at campus parking lots to show whether or not spaces were available. Dorothy Renaghan addressed the question by noting that the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project envisions that electronic signage will be available.
- A couple of Steering Committee members wondered about the Columbia Road exit to campus and noted that at key class times that it causes backup onto Interstate 93. Dorothy Renaghan mentioned that the campus is talking with the Division of Conservation and Recreation about this topic and hopes to develop a resolution in the near future.
**Public Art Planning**
Ellen O’Connor initiated a discussion with the Steering Committee on the topic of public art planning. As the campus moves forward with implementing its 25-year Master Plan, it has an opportunity to strategically integrate art into its planning for new and existing buildings as well as landscapes. Over the next few years, several existing pieces of art (including Huru located on the Integrated Sciences Complex site) will need to be relocated as a result of the construction of several phase one Master Plan projects.

The campus is interested in exploring the establishment of a formal planning process to acquire, site, relocate, and de-access its public art. Ellen described this process as a way to integrate campus planning with art.

Steering Committee members expressed interest in the topic and also suggested that landscape architects working with the campus have the opportunity to incorporate art into their plans and that landscape plans for individual projects be integrated with overall landscape design plans for the central quad. Sue Wolfson mentioned that it has always been the intention of the Master Plan to hire an architect to work on a comprehensive landscape design strategy for the campus. This intention must be coordinated with available financial resources.

**Updates on Master Plan Projects**

Dorothy Renaghan provided the Steering Committee with updates on various Master Plan projects. Highlights of these updates included:

**Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC)**
Since the project’s June groundbreaking, a lot of progress has been made—ground improvement work to support future utility, sidewalk, and hardscape areas is taking place, crews are installing reinforcing steel/rebar and pipes for venting and continue to excavate a tunnel that will connect to the adjacent Service and Supply Building, and the building’s foundation base is taking shape. The Division of Capital Asset Management is in the process of awarding early construction contracts (including structural steel and elevator trades). Early construction packages help to facilitate construction activity as 100% design on the project is completed.

**General Academic Building No. 1 (GAB No. 1)**
The space program for General Academic Building No. 1 was approved in early September.

The building will provide 107,670 net assignable square feet of new space featuring:

- 27 general purpose classrooms (40,008 sf)
- Art department (16,120 sf)
  - Art studios/teaching labs and associated support spaces
  - Faculty, staff, and administrative offices
- Chemistry teaching labs and non-research spaces (21,352 sf)
  - Teaching labs and associated support spaces
  - Faculty, staff, and administrative offices
- Performing Arts (21,190 sf)
  - 3 venues – Theater, Recital Hall, and Dance Studio
  - Acting classroom and Music practice rooms
  - Faculty, staff, and administrative offices
- Food Service (4,000 sf)
  - Café, storage, and seating
- Lounge (5,000 sf)
Interaction spaces

It is anticipated that schematic design will be completed in February 2011 and that the design development phase will be completed in June. Construction is anticipated to start in summer 2012.

Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation Project
The UMass Building Authority (UMBA) has selected Integrated Services, Inc. (BVH) as the final designer for the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project. Sasaki Associates will work with BVH as the project’s landscape architect. In a previous contract with UMBA, BVH developed the feasibility study and conceptual design for this project and has extensively studied existing utilities, road systems, and future campus goals. It is anticipated that design will be completed by June 2012 and that the project will begin to mobilize for construction in summer 2012.

Harborwalk and Shoreline Stabilization Project
Representatives from the campus will begin to interview design finalists for the Harborwalk and Shoreline Stabilization Project during the week of November 28, 2011.

Space Allocation Plan Project
Sue Wolfson provided the Steering Committee with an update on the Space Allocation Plan project. Campus planners are currently assembling information for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural services for this project. The architectural team hired for this project will develop strategic and phased renovation programs for the abandoned spaces in McCormack and Wheatley Halls upon the opening of the Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) and General Academic Building No. 1. Over the next few months, the campus planners and facilities staff members will work closely with Academic Affairs and UMBA on finalizing the RFP.

Spring 2012 Meetings
The Spring 2012 meeting schedule will be confirmed in January 2012.