UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

May 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Planning Committee

From: Christine Taylor Thompson, Planning Associate
Campus Planning and Real Estate

Subject: **Record** of the May 6, 2009 Campus Planning Committee Meeting

Attending: Gregg Lobisser (Chair), Leslie Bennett, Carole Daly, Frances Dyke, Roger Kerrigan, Sean Landry, Kevin Nute, Molly Promes, Chris Ramey, Collin Schless, Donald Swain, Rob Thallon

Staff: Christine Taylor Thompson (Campus Planning and Real Estate)

Guests: Vince Babkirk (Facilities Services), Laurie Canup (HDR/THA), Chuck Cassell (HDR/THA), Becca Cavell (HDR/THA), Darin Dehle (Facilities Services), Emily Eng (CPRE), Thomas Hacker (HDR/THA), Jim Hutchison (Chemistry, User Group co-chair), Lou Moses (Psychology, User Group co-chair), Bruce Powers (HDR/THA), Steve Simpson (HDR/THA), Roger Snyder (HDR/THA), Denise Stewart (Facilities Services), Fred Tepfer (CPRE)

Agenda:

1. Lewis Integrative Science Building (LISB) – Check in

Background: Staff reviewed the purpose of the check in meeting and reviewed prior comments made by the CPC as described in the meeting mailing.

Lou Moses and Jim Hutchison, project co-chairs, introduced the project. The project's goal is to create a cutting-edge facility that brings together multiple disciplines. It is an opportunity to connect the science buildings, particularly Deschutes Hall and Streisinger Hall, to one another. The spaces must be highly functional to meet programmatic needs.

Thomas Hacker from HDR/THA reviewed the schematic design process and preliminary design ideas as described in the meeting mailing. The design process is about halfway completed with primary attention given to establishing programmatic elements and meeting specific dimensional needs while addressing larger siting issues. Design efforts have focused on addressing large-scale *Campus Plan* patterns such as Universal Access, Sustainable Development, Open-space Framework, and University Shape. A significant design goal is to enhance pedestrian connections within the science complex, particularly the exterior science walk and interior multi-floor connections to adjacent science buildings.

The large building size presents challenges due to the limited site size and existing features including the large oak trees and the UO entry sign (which the project is committed to protect). The new right turn lane on Franklin Boulevard reduces the open space near the UO entry sign.

In response to campus planning issues, the preliminary building design has a strong axial entrance facing the science green. The entrance would not have a ground floor pedestrian connection from the Science Green to the Franklin Bouvelard edge due to restricted options available to expand the adjacent animal facility in Streisinger. Therefore, the entrance would lead up to a second floor lobby that would allow views through the building, connect to Streisinger, and allow for a connection to a future building across Franklin Boulevard via a sky bridge.

A second entrance is proposed on axis with the sidewalk Deschutes Hall and Oregon Hall to allow pedestrians to pass through the building at ground level. It would lead to an outdoor space dominated by the existing oaks and a new landscaped edge along Franklin Boulevard. A new pedestrian pathway would encourage users to cross Franklin Boulevard at Agate Street versus mid-block.

The building's massing would be broken into a series of blocks connected by an atrium. The three/four story building would have a footprint of about 24,000 sf with multiple-floor connections to Streisinger Hall and a second-floor connection to Deschutes Hall. The three-story portion would be designed to accommodate additional floors in the future.

Discussion: In summary, members supported prior committee comments and asked the design team to continue efforts to address them. In addition, members made the following key comments at the meeting:

- Ensure the campus's edge does not become more impenetrable. Explore options to prevent furthering the sense of a "wall" along the Franklin edge.
- Very carefully re-evaluate the proposed building configuration to find a way to maintain a ground-level north/south pedestrian connection from the Science Green to the campus edge. Overall, ensure that north/south pedestrian access through this area functions well.
- Enhance visual transparency through the building to allow views into campus from the public edge. Make it feel welcoming to open.
- Explore options to reduce the overall building size, in particular its footprint. Make full use of basements and consider additional floor levels. Pay special attention to the building's relationship to and distance from the UO entry sign (Agate Entrance Green) and the Franklin edge. The current proposal appears to be too restricted. Verify that the building would not extend into the Agate Entrance Green.
- Ensure the building is designed to take advantage of local climate conditions (e.g. prevailing winds).
- Design the Franklin edge as a functional and landscaped open space with views in, not as a buffer.
- Make the south entrance facing the Science Green more dominant and connected to the open space.
- Choose an architectural character that conveys an academic message by relating to the academic function and the character of other campus academic buildings. This is particularly important in light of current athletics projects that are under construction along the Franklin edge near the main campus entrance, which possess a unique architectural style. There is a need to counterbalance the strong athletics image.

- Ensure that the existing oak trees are fully protected – verify that the building does not encroach into root zone and that all precautions are taken during construction.

In addition, Tom said the building's footprint would be a minimum of 44 feet from the Franklin edge and 30 feet from Deschutes Hall to meet fire access needs. The building's eastern edge is defined by existing underground utilities.

A member expressed concern about public access to the future bridge over Franklin Boulevard. Tom said the bridge was envisioned primarily as a building-to-building connector. An exterior stair would be required to accommodate public access if a bridge was constructed.

A member suggested exploring options to establish a more prominent entrance on the north side. Tom and other THA staff said the north building entrance was recessed to keep the dimension thin in order to enhance transparency, allow views through the building, maintain as many of the existing Streisinger windows as possible, and break up the building's massing. Also, the entrance was not emphasized because it would not have pedestrian access from the north side due the need to connect the Streisinger animal facility at the ground level. Another member added that the campus is paying a large price to benefit a single lab. The Lillis atrium is an example of a successful pass through.

THA staff said the proposed building would be within allowable densities established by the *Campus Plan*.

Action: No formal action. The committee's comments will be considered as the project moves forward.

Please contact this office if you have questions.

cc. Vince Babkirk, Facilities Services
Paul Bloch, Computer and Info Science (Deschutes Building Manager)
Jane Brubaker, Facilities Services
Becca Cavell, THA Architecture Inc.
John Donovan, CAMCOR (Lokey Labs Building Manager)
Sam Dotters-Katz, ASUO
Shelley Elliott, Biology (Klamath Building Manager)
Emily Eng, CPRE
Lisa Gardner, Eugene Planning Division
Terri Harding, Eugene Planning
Thomas Hacker, THA Architecture Inc.
Jim Hutchison, Chemistry (User Group co-chair)
Lou Moses, Psychology (User Group co-chair)
Bruce Powers, THA Architecture Inc.
Greg Rikhoff, Community Relations
Roger Snyder, HDR Inc.
Denise Stewart, Facilities Services
Fred Tepfer, CPRE
Holly Thaxton, Business Affairs (Oregon Hall Building Manager)
Paul van Donkelaar, Human Physiology (University Senate)
Bruce Wilson, Molecular Biology (Huestis, Klamath, and Streisinger Building Manager)