

University Building Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2010
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
325 Burruss Hall

Present: Jim McCoy for Michael Coleman, Scott Hurst, Ken Smith for Dixon Hanna, Dennis Gehrt for Dr Grant, Jennie Reilly, Thomas Burbey, Jean Brickey, Sachi Nekkanti, Sandra Mullins (Administrative Assistant)

Guests: Luz Semeah

Absent: Michael Coleman, Jack Davis, Lynn Eichhorn, Ki-Hong Ku, Nathan Latka, Sherwood Wilson, Chris Wise

Jim McCoy, Chief of Staff for Facilities Services, chaired the Building Committee in Mike Coleman's absence. He welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The minutes from the March 25, 2010 meeting was approved.

Overview of the Center for the Arts

Scott Hurst, University Architect, gave an overview of the Center for the Arts which is in Preliminary Design and will be located adjacent to Shultz Hall between Turner Street and Alumni Mall. The Center will house a 1,260-seat performance hall, visual arts galleries, and the Center for Creative Technologies in the Arts. If funding is available, construction will begin in fall 2010 and occupancy should occur in summer 2013. The exterior materials will include Hokie Stone, precast concrete, concrete composite panels, and glass. Both public entrances on the front and back of the Center are ADA accessible.

Jennie Riley had several questions/suggestions about the ADA accessibility of the Center which she will address with the project manager. Some of the suggestions include interspersed handicap seating for wheelchairs, direct lighting for the interpreter, all powered doors, and retaining the current handicap parking spots throughout the project as they are used by Shultz Hall, Shanks Hall, Torgersen Hall, Squires, and the Library and maintaining the accessibility pathway for Shanks.

Virginia Tech Capital Project Cost Analysis

Jim McCoy discussed a Capital Project Cost Analysis with the Committee that was prepared for the November 2009 Board of Visitors meeting in answer to the Board's question regarding comparative construction cost with peer universities. The Virginia Tech campus buildings are unique which make it difficult to find buildings at other universities for comparison that match. Vermeulens Cost Consultants was hired because they have a data base that would enable comparative construction cost of

“like” facilities. They were able to compare the construction cost of New Residence Hall I and the Signature Engineering Building with similar facilities at other institutions. Virginia Tech’s construction costs were consistent with the comparable facilities. For non-construction related project costs, Virginia Tech’s costs were at the low end of the range of costs when compared to multiple other ACC Schools.

New Business

Jennie Reilly gave the Committee a handout for prioritized physical access projects requested from Physical Central Fund FY 2009-2010 and new requests in FY 2010-2011. The projects include new power doors, signage, sidewalk repair, exterior handrails at the front steps to Burruss Hall, and interior connection between Hahn North and Hahn South to provide interior connectivity for wheelchair users/those with limited mobility. A top priority is a power door for the northwest entry to Whittemore Hall from Perry Street to enhance access to Durham Hall and giving a shorter path of travel for those using the new parking garage.

The North Campus Sector study done by the Office of the University Architect was helpful to focus on the ADA needs for that sector. Jennie Reilly requested a study be done for the Brodie and Squires area.

This is the last meeting for 2009-2010 Academic Year.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned.