

Vancouver Island University – Cowichan Place Campus
MINUTES OF MEETING WITH FACULTY AND STAFF
Held at: Cowichan Campus, Duncan, BC
June 18, 2009

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ATTENDING:

Campus Faculty and Staff

Ric Kelm, Executive Director, Facilities & Campus Development	RK	Ric.Kelm@viu.ca
Maria Lauridsen, Principal of Cowichan Campus	ML	Maria.Lauridsen@viu.ca
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Subject

Summary of Comments / Requests Made During User Meeting

- Operable windows
- Outdoor social space
- Feel like campus (not single building)
- Feel like serious learning place university
- Particulars in the totality, diversity of student needs
- Place you can call 'home' for learning betterment
 - Everything in centralized structure
 - Intimate spaces
 - Informal and formal spaces
 - Gathering space
- Promote interaction
- Diversity within unity
- Transparency from outside
 - Not looking like a closed book
 - Inviting
- University of Saskatoon - layout from circular outdoor common area with large Teepee at centre
- Nanaimo Campus - No opportunities for outdoor classrooms
- Design for expansion and flexibility
- Don't sacrifice good acoustics for 'green'
- Sound-proofing for offices and classrooms
- Classes outdoors - simple, not elaborate
- Welcoming
- Welcoming campus. Want people to be carried into the building. Seriousness without intimidating, be inclusive.
- University of Northern British Columbia - 'C' plan - works well - Central Courtyard
 - Classrooms open to corridor and outside
- Acknowledge First Nations
 - Through Art
 - Through Architecture
 - Reflect River
 - Food Services

- Open gathering space (inside and outside spaces or amphitheatre)
- Seamless transition to outside campus
- Native Landscaping and Roof Garden
- Promote desire to stay on campus between classes (fireplace, comfortable furniture)
- Need theatre (or multi-purpose room available) for the community, student registration, and for events and celebrations.
- Evening Security for evening classes or students on campus studying
- Bring our souls to work
- Interaction - Informal Learning - Gathering Spaces (nooks, lounges, media)
 - Sense of flow, create passages for linkages
- Community Garden
- Need large gathering space (80-120) (not necessarily a theater) maybe relate to library, not to registration. Come to VIU campus for visiting speakers also good PR, attracting not only students but also parents and others who have never been to VIU.
- Art (gallery) venue for local artists
- Food and sinks in classrooms
- Be kind to bikes with end of trip facilities (change room, showers, lockers)
- Outdoor hallways = Covered walkways, serve as linkages and areas to congregate, similar to Gulf Islands Secondary School in Ganges, Salt Spring Island.
- Informal learning is the glue that holds the university together. Comfortable areas with white boards, furniture an asset.
- Consider open plan office layout with communal work areas and a few closed offices for privacy.
- Need childcare (outside scope) possible future venture. Students currently bring children into the classroom because of lack of childcare facilities at VIU and in the community.
 - Master plan (for possible community group)
- Campus to be welcoming to children. Baby nursing (private spaces) and safe toddler area (short stay)
- Incorporate First Nations language in signage
- Food Bank (community garden) where students can grow food
- Staff room - maybe also separate student room - celebrate everyone's successes
- 1 reception. Once inside, building should have easy, intuitive orientation
- Clear separation of reception / registration
- Nooks, crannies and alcoves preferred for informal learning.
 - Can be breakout spaces from classrooms
 - Should be flexible, multi use spaces
 - Fireplace, comfortable furniture
- New theatre at new Campus (up to 200 people) to be part of the community
 - Example - Philip Young theatre at UVIC
- Remember river/valley setting
- Orientation to mountains, estuary, Cowichan Bay
- Sub-dividable - operable walls to accommodate immediate, expandable space
- Belonging for everyone - staff, students, community of all ages
 - Sense of ownership important to how VIU functions
- Murals, exhibiting First Nations culture
- Music conservatory to promote a new music program for the community? Currently, nothing offered.

- Computer graphics, media gaming courses
- Possible partnerships with outside group(s) (BC Hydro, Island Savings...)
- Healing garden - High environmental standards, control invasive species
- Preserve existing rhododendrons
- Try to oversize rooms for flexibility
- Different room sizes for flexibility
- No internal classrooms
- Cooling
- Include all available technology for students and faculty
- Reflect cultural diversity of Cowichan Valley whilst respecting the history of place
- Food - plays an important role in greeting, gathering and celebrations. Some food services required
- Social connections - significance
 - Don't over plan initially. Allow for flexibility.
 - Allow to incorporate future ideas later - finish building after completing shell
 - It takes time to colonize a new space
- Literacy Centre - Can be intimidating for 80+ students in the program (20 at one time)
 - Must be made to feel welcome.
 - Some cannot read signs (no separation between levels)
 - Should be visible part, not hidden
- Promote Faculty meeting in shared space.
- 'Cowichan Learning Home' or 'Learning Building' - own logo
- Teach fish ecology, history along with science classes- art of smoking fish, etc. (Elder in residence)
- Display area
- Art: First Nations and other cultures. Mural
- Clear directions from reception to service department (for non-readers)
- Classrooms: ideally 2nd door for students arriving late
- Multi-Media Lab that can be accessible to students, staff and faculty and can accommodate ever changing technologies
- Student smokers to be accommodated?- Proximity issues
- Natural light to central space(s)
- Orientation and trees etc. for screening entrance
- Entrance to face east? ... Relate to rest of Cowichan Place
- Exterior context unattractive, trashy. Must become inviting and be easily visible.
- Individual Classroom heat control
- Warm lighting in building
 - If it looks warm, it feels warm
 - Psychologically very important
 - 2-3 stage switching
- Cafeteria
 - Design with pleasant atmosphere
 - Bring Community into Cafeteria
 - Very important part of Campus as gathering place
- Integrated recycling operations (including compost for community gardens)
- Modern digital signage on Campus (tied to website?)

Video Conference

- Maria would like to see new campus as a leader in sustainability -
 - Need to reduce the amount of travel ie: video conferencing
 - Build infrastructure to accommodate
 - Would also be more economical in the long run
- Continuing studies - very useful
- Connect with Powell River
- Individuals can video connect via computer
- Holo-conferencing - coming technology

Nanaimo vs Cowichan Campus

- Cowichan Place should set trend for others to copy.
- Cowichan Place = entry point to entire Vancouver Island University and beyond - portal. Should be seen that way by the community.
- Good Bus service between campuses
 - Will open new opportunities to students
 - Will tie Campuses together
 - Less parking required
- Nanaimo Campus needs to recognize Cowichan Campus' uniqueness, assets.
- Point of view / VIU (Regional perspective) not just a satellite, currently a backwater
- Avoid being too distinct - Part of regional institution w/- local flavour
- What is the distinctive identity? 'warm land' nurturing etc., can be self limiting
- Be nurturing, but not too nurturing
- Beyond 'them and us'
- Regional High Schools are an untapped market.
 - Most students go to Nanaimo.
 - Current VIU campus is not visible in the community.
 - Must bring balance of being a university while welcoming a community education while not scaring future students away.
 - Strong community roots need to be put down.
 - Become a point of destination
 - Give students confidence to move onto larger campus or beyond
- Transplant institution to a new site for new growth
- Awards and recognitions celebrations and ceremonies for 80-150 people
- Why not be prominent? Flagship building landmark for Duncan
- Noise - nearby fire halls

Adult Students / Faculty Support

- Student services key, 1st contact (Near cafe, not adjacent)
- Child care
- Programming
- Big sign visible from highway?
- Students are adults and should be fully mixed with staff
 - Interaction and integration
 - Spontaneous and formal learning
- Faculty offices immediately accessible

- Create a more natural flow between Student Services and Faculty - part of each others work day.
- Learning commons - social as well as quiet
- C.A.P. Common office with some separate private rooms
- Variety of meeting places - offices, meeting rooms, coffee shop etc.
- Adult learners appreciate early and / or late hours of operation
 - Extended hours for library / commons
 - Separable spaces for secure after hours access
- Common AV standards for every teaching space and with other VIU Campuses
- Buffer between students / faculty: eliminate for some, maintain for others
- Learning commons no longer a library function
- Consider cleaning - support janitorial practices
- Administration different than Faculty therefore Administration might not suit integration with student but be accessible and feel part of the building
- Bookstore visibility to public and can be located adjacent to Cafe
- Take 'welcoming' figures from existing Campus to new Campus
- Make entire campus ergonomically accessible
- New campus is part of a larger community vision, therefore needs to have a 'front door' to demonstrate to users that VIU is open to all
- Parking
 - Should have sustainable paving
 - Be self sustaining? VIU to review
 - Perhaps have an agreement with Cowichan Campus for shared parking
 - Short-term metered parking required to improve visitor access
- Filling stations and drinking fountains
- Use easy clean, hard wearing materials
- Landmark building
 - Become point of common pride
 - Set an example for future buildings of Cowichan Place and the valley
 - Flexible celebration space required for VIU and community
 - Should stand out from the rest of Cowichan Place
 - Should bring spirit of the people, the river and surrounding mountains
 - Use natural materials, brightness, human scale, landscaping
 - Be made to hold people

**ec: Maria to distribute to faculty and staff present.
Mark Meher-RPG mmehrer@rpg.ca**

All efforts have been made to present the mentioned items as an accurate record of the discussions at the meeting. Should there be any discrepancies, please contact our office.