

# NEW ACADEMIC CENTER MEETING NOTES COMMUNITY FORUM 8/16/11

## SUMMARY

The objective of the meeting was for the design team to present the progress of the Schematic Design concept to the wider community and campus.

## PRESENTATION

1. Laura McCarty gave a brief introduction of the design process to date, including the bi-weekly Core Group meetings that have been held with the Design Team, College, Swinerton and two representatives from the Kentfield community.
2. Mark Cavagnero gave a PowerPoint presentation, beginning with a brief review of the July 12 Community Forum presentation (for the benefit of those unable to attend the July meeting), including the generation of the design informed by the original 1930's campus plan, and general massing and floor plan layouts.
3. The second portion of the presentation focused on the subsequent development of the project design:
  - a. The presentation focused on the development of the College Avenue frontage:
    - i. Generally mitigating the critical issues regarding scale, materiality, light pollution and landscaping
    - ii. Street level entry at the north end of building
    - iii. Low scale of building
    - iv. Second floor and small balconies overhang first floor; creating relief and shadowing to the College Avenue façade.
    - v. Louvers at second level – warm, natural (wood-like) material.
    - vi. Combination of colors, transparency and natural day lighting in classrooms creates variety and interest along building façade.
    - vii. Generous, informal landscaping scheme to provide color, shading, and softening of building façade along street.
    - viii. Lighting along street will be balanced to prevent glare, while providing pedestrian safety.
    - ix. Balance of light in classrooms achieved by the atrium skylight
  - b. Mark made the point that the project is balancing three main components:
    - i. Making a great academic environment
    - ii. Needs of the college campus
    - iii. Interface with the community

## MEETING NOTES

DATE **08/16/2011** TIME **7:00-8:30 pm**

PROJECT  
**College of Marin  
New Academic Center**

PROJECT NUMBER  
**10010.00**

LOCATION  
**College of Marin  
Student Services Building  
Deedy Staff Lounge**

ISSUE DATE  
**08/18/2011**

NOTES BY  
**Brian Wright**

PARTICIPANTS  
**Mark Cavagnero (MCA)  
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Christian Wopperer (MCA)  
Brian Wright (TLCD)**

**Laura McCarty (COM)  
Debra Mathau (SMC)  
Leigh Sata (SMC)**

**David Wain Coon (COM President)**

**Anne Peterson (Community Rep)  
Len Pullan (Community Rep)**

**Board Trustees:  
Diana Conti  
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## COMMENTS AND Q&A SESSION

1. Comment (by Anne Peterson, Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, and participant in the Planning Core Group): The design process is working extremely well, a very positive effort. She is excited about where this project is headed, and would be happy to meet with any community members to answer questions and/or bring questions and comments to the Planning Core Group.
2. Comment (by Deborah Loft, Art History Instructor and Marin Resident): The strength of the design scheme is that it pulls together the campus plan. The design of the building is rational, but not one-dimensional. Question: What is inviting people in? How will the “gateway” aspect work?  
*Answer – With the taqueria and Harlan Center removed, the sightlines and landscaping will lead the views into the campus. The campus and landscape become the “gateway”. All sides of the building need to be carefully considered, as there really is no rear side.*
3. Question – Will the second story overhang be safe in an earthquake?  
*Answer – Yes. The building will be engineered per the California Building Code, and will meet all DSA standards for seismic safety in school construction.*
4. Question – What happens to the parking lot east of the Library?  
*Answer – This lot will remain.*
5. Question – Will the building have the same kind of landscaping on all four sides as is indicated for College Avenue?  
*Answer – The landscaping concept for the other building sides is still being developed. More landscape development will be shown in the Board of Trustees presentation on August 23.*
6. Question – What happens to the existing trees when the Harlan Center is removed?  
*Answer – The most significant trees will be retained if possible, but this needs to be evaluated in context with the master plan for the Great Lawn, which is currently being studied.*
7. Question – Is the west wall of the auditorium intended to be aligned with the west wall of the existing Library?  
*Answer – Yes. The intent is to create a continuous edge to the Great Lawn open space. The open spaces are seen as “outdoor rooms”.*
8. Comment – Would like to see a nice walkway along the west edge of the Library and New Academic Center, similar to the walkway along Fusselman Hall.
9. Comment – The design of the building is still too long and linear along College Avenue. Would like to see more openings into the campus.

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*Response – We have looked at many options. This is the best solution that balances an efficient and functional academic building with the specific comments from the community. We will continue to look at ways to address this concern.*

10. What are the exterior materials?

*Answer – We are looking at board-formed concrete or a type of masonry material for the lower level. The upper level is mostly glass, with louvers possibly made of wood, a synthetic wood, or a metal such as CoreTen steel. The challenge with actual wood is the requirement for regular maintenance, which may not be in the District’s budget.*

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11. Comment – We would desire a wood-like material rather than metal, and slate or bluestone rather than concrete. Question – what is the width of the sidewalk? We would like a sidewalk wider than the existing.

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*Answer – the sidewalk as conceived is 6 to 8 feet wide, and is intended to be integrated with the landscaping. The average setback from the curb to the building is 25 feet.*

12. Question – The building should look like a learning institution; this looks too much like an office building or apartments. What can you do about this?

*Answer – The broad balconies and views into the classrooms will showcase the activity of the building both day and night. This will clearly be perceived as an academic building.*

13. Question – Why can’t the street level entrance be located in the middle of the building?

*Answer – Again, this has been studied, and the entrances have been located at the two ends of the building to enhance better circulation, and the most efficient means for meeting the fire exiting requirements of the building code.*

14. Question – A concern about the full height glass in the classrooms. Won’t this produce too much sunlight and glare?

*Answer – This will be looked at very carefully. The design of the overhangs, setbacks, louvers and glass shading will all be evaluated to provide balanced natural light in the spaces. This study will be necessary also for our design for energy efficiency.*

15. Question – Will the windows be operable?

*Answer – We will be studying this. The desire is to provide as much natural ventilation, and individual climate control as possible.*

16. Comment – This building is too big, not the right building for Kentfield.

17. Question – What is the width of the opening from the new courtyard to the Library?

*Answer – 30 feet.*

18. Comment – This building is wonderful, and sits “like a feather” on the site.

## CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

1. Dr. Coon thanked everyone for coming to the presentation, and for providing their valuable input.
2. The design team will take note of all the comments and questions, and will further develop the design in preparation for presenting to the Board of Trustees on **August 23, 2011.**

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These meeting notes will be added to the official project record. Please forward comments or corrections to TLCD Architecture within one week of issue date.