

University of Colorado Design Review Board Amended Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Time: 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Location: Bruce and Marcy Benson Conference Room, First Floor, 1800 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado

DRB and Campus Members present:

Don Brandes, Jody Beck, Sarah Brown, Cheri Gerou, Mike Winters, and Carolyn Fox, campus DRB member for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (“UCCS”). Tom Hootman was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Others in attendance not otherwise noted:

Kori Donaldson, AVP for Budget, Planning, and Capital and ex officio member of the DRB
Linda Money, CU Real Estate Services, CU System employee / DRB note taker
Emily Parker, Sr. Budget, Planning, and Policy Analyst, Office of the VP for Budget & Finance

Don Brandes, Chair, determined a quorum and called the meeting of the Design Review Board to order at 8:37 a.m.

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Study Session – Board Only

The DRB reviewed the items on the agenda and discussed administrative matters prior to convening the public portion of the meeting.

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. UCCS Campus Master Plan – UCCS Final Review (Information/Direction – No Action)

Architect:
SmithGroup, Denver, Colorado

Presenters from SmithGroup:
Brandon Woodle, Campus Planner, Associate Landscape Architect
Doug Kozma, Vice President, Campus Planning

UCCS Campus Presenter:
Carolyn Fox, Executive Director, Planning, Design & Construction, and University Architect, Facilities Management

Description: Final review of 2022 Master Plan (“CMP”) for the UCCS Campus.

A/E Presentation

Representatives of SmithGroup gave a comprehensive presentation of the submittal package, a copy of which is available upon request through the contact information noted at the bottom of this document.

DRB Comments

The DRB would like to review more of the detail underlying the master plan recommendation.

A. General Comments

- The CMP will guide future DRB project review.
 - Consider developing design guidelines for inclusion in the CMP.
- The 2023 CMP will include some organizing objectives that were either not addressed or minimally addressed in the 2012 CMP, including:
 - Sustainability and energy;
 - Managing the unique campus topography, including drainage, slope, and geology;
 - How to move through and between campuses and establishing a “front door;”
 - Where students should gather and recreate in open spaces; and
 - How to group like activities in certain areas of the campus.
- There are excellent opportunities to establish “destination centers” throughout the campus.
 - Reflect and animate “node areas” and “activity centers” in the CMP.
- Embrace the campus topography and surrounding open spaces in proposed massing, materiality, siting, sustainability, and pedestrian spaces.
 - The DRB likes the images on pages 31 and 34-37.
 - Consider modifying images in the CMP to include more colors (than green) to be more representative of the existing and proposed landscape environment.
 - Review the nomenclature used in graphic representations to eliminate some references to “lawns” and to encourage more native landscaping.
 - Recognize the connectivity to surrounding open spaces in design recommendations.
 - Landscapes that blend into the environment and are balanced with water conservation goals are preferred.
 - Consider creating a demonstration model illustrating the relationship between irrigation and turf/green spaces.
 - Plan to integrate future stormwater improvements into the campus drainage master plan and campus ecology.
 - Create areas where students can recreate that have a sense of place and connection to the natural topography.
 - Are there any specific views, such as Pulpit Rock, that need to be referenced and preserved?
 - Include descriptions and illustrations of wind buffers. Can wind buffers be designed in such a way to not visually interrupt the natural landscape?
 - Identify opportunities to integrate art into open spaces.

- Provide studies of vehicular access, circulation, and parking. Include overlays illustrating the interaction of vehicular spaces with various uses, such as pedestrian access and crossings, public transit, and emergency services.
 - The mobility change from a vehicle-oriented campus to a pedestrian-oriented campus as evidenced by the removal of the existing traffic circles is understood.
 - The potential e-bike-share program is a great idea.
 - Include a diagram showing how the separate campuses are linked together.
 - Are they linked only through the shuttle system?
 - Include cross-sections showing how vehicles (and pedestrians, if applicable) move between the three campuses.
 - Continue to investigate ways to further consolidate and remove parking.
 - How can the CMP encourage use of the shuttle system?
- Consider how changes in AI could affect space use over the next decade.
- Review and revise the total estimated staffing headcount on page 12.

B. Site & Landscape Architecture

East Campus

- The DRB appreciates the proposed relocation of the Colleges of Nursing and Education.

Central Campus

- The DRB likes the plans for defining a gateway entry to the central campus. The graphic representation of the new arrival and welcome experience shown on page 22 is great.
- The proposed (additional) on-site housing improves the whole campus feel.
- Look for new inspirational images (with views to exterior spaces) to replace the images shown on pages 20 and 21.
- Support the anticipated improvements to Summit Village and Columbine Hall with inspirational imagery, showing how the character of the space might look and feel.
 - How will future residence hall renovations engage with surrounding open spaces? Can the CMP illustrate the edges? What is the scale of the planned improvements?
- On page 33, look for ways to soften the graphic representation of the monumental stair and include areas of natural landscaping.

West Campus

- The planned future use of the west campus works well. Continue to study and illustrate the scaling of the west campus.
 - The graphical representations of the west campus buildings should reflect the topography and how buildings will be integrated into the landscape, and how the landscape relates to the buildings. For example, the health and wellness building should look like it's nestled into the hillside.

- The structures in the athletic complex need to be iconic (because of the view corridor).
 - The DRB appreciates the intent to preserve views from the Eagle Rock residential neighborhood as it relates to the future athletic structures.
 - The DRB also appreciates that the campus hopes to replace the indoor practice facility with a permanent structure.
 - For the graphic representation on page 46, consider alternatives regarding how the parking structure and the arena are displayed.
 - Consider creating a second site cross-section further north to more accurately reflect the topography of the parking structure and related view corridor.
 - To minimize the impact of the parking structure, explore burying it in the hillside.
- The representative images of VAPA 2 (p. 44) are a good suggestion for the building's massing and siting.
- For the opportunity zones shown on page 47, include images in the CMP illustrating suggested strategies for massing and views.
- Retaining the roundabout on the west campus makes sense due to the vehicular demands of the area.

C. Energy and Sustainability

- The DRB recommends that the master plan incorporate a comprehensive sustainability section related to energy, carbon, water, material resources, and healthy building goals for the campus. This section could reference other UCCS plans, as appropriate.
 - Sustainability should also be included throughout the CMP, as part of the visioning and goals.
- Include details regarding the solar garden proposed for the west campus, such as:
 - What is the purpose of the solar garden?
 - How will it feed into the energy grid?
 - Will parking be incorporated into the design?
 - Could the grid extend into the parking lot next to it?
 - Are there site considerations for building next to the grid?
- Investigate energy performance contracting opportunities related to the solar garden.

DRB Action

Formal action was not required. The consultants are doing great work on the CMP. The DRB would appreciate another update before the CMP is presented to the Board of Regents in August.

There being no further business, the public meeting of the Design Review Board was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

(For assistance with the attachments referenced within this document, please contact Linda Money at (303) 860-6110 or linda.money@cu.edu.)