

Classroom Design & Advisory Committee Workgroup Meeting 3/19/07

Attending:

Megan Keefe, Office of the University Registrar
Sherry Younger, Office of the University Registrar
Gina Platz, Classroom Hotline
Tu Dang, Learning Services
Joe Schuch, Information Technology Services
William McCraw, Facilities Planning and Design
Peter Van Vechten, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Agenda Items:

Discussion on Dorm Classrooms (South Campus)
Review of Genomics Building

Discussion about Dorm Classrooms

Original agreement between Kelly Rowett and David Jones (Housing) was that Registrar's Office would schedule spring & fall semesters between Fall 2005 and Fall 2007. Registrar's Office does not need to extend the time-frame of the original agreement. There are only three classes scheduled in the eleven dorm classrooms for Fall 2007. The walking distance from main campus is the main reason professors do not want to teach in this location.

Review of Genomics Building

The largest auditorium was presented as follows: 410 – 420 in capacity, tiered seating with 21 fixed tablet arm chairs across each row, with 24" seats, no center isle, isles on both sides of wall, the room is about 80 – 100 ft. deep, two rows of slider blackboards, screen over blackboards, with columns along each side of the room & a large column front left of the room. This room is long and narrow and may present a problem for people in the front and back to view the screen. Options presented were: to change the seats to 75% at 24" and use smaller sizes for the other 25%; cut down to one row of blackboards as most professors would not use a blackboard in this size room; use a painted wall surface instead of installing a screen; power to seats would be nice but not necessary; desire large tablet surface for laptops – William will check with Jerry Guerrier to find out the which type of tablet arm chairs with a large tablet surface we have used before; desire tables with chairs for handicapped seating; desire cabinet storage at the front of the classroom for professor's papers/supplies; desire recessed cabinet for equipment at the front of the classroom; desire podiums that could be raised or lowered & that if movable could be locked in place by ITS; and Peter Van Vechten will investigate whether the room could be reconfigured to have a wider seating arrangement to allow clear view of the screen area for all students. However, due to the columns this may not be an option. Final suggestion was for a long row of sun lights at one side of the room,

but this would create a problem darkening the room. It was suggested that a glass wall at the back of the room may work better than sun lights.

Auditorium at 250 capacity: suggestion was to remove the first two rows of seats and add rows to the back of the room as there is very little room for the professor at the front of the room; projectors will be hung from the ceiling; desire to have recessed cabinet for equipment (approximately 24X30X68 with room on each side for ventilation & cabinet doors with holes for ventilation; desire recessed storage cabinet for professor's supplies; desire two screens and slider chalkboards.

Four small classrooms presented with a capacity of 35, movable tablet arm chairs, no windows and glass walls. Two are on the lower level 1 and two are on the ground level. Requested that two of these classrooms be changed to tables & chairs with a capacity no lower than 30. No specific request as to which of the four rooms should be changed to tables & chairs. Suggested: the screen should be angled slightly so more black board space is available; on lower level 1 move the doors near the front of the room and add more chairs in the back; add shades to glass walls; consider materials that will help acoustics (such as resilient floors, panels on walls, acoustical ceiling tiles). Suggested for one of the ground level classrooms which has two doors: change the configuration of the seats so that they face the longest wall, create a center isle and have only one door which would face the isle.

Classroom of 80 capacity with glass wall and tablet arm chairs which opens to a courtyard directly from the classroom. Suggested: change to tables & chairs in case the dept. wants to hold events at nights and store the tables & chairs; hang shades on the glass wall.