

## MEETING NOTES

### Master Plan Review Team

Friday, February 11, 2005

1:30-2:30 pm

Green Hall President's Conference Room

**Attendance:** Ann Morrissey, Paul DePace, Vern Wyman, Jerry Sidio, Annie Newman, Sandy Taylor, Chip Yensan, Will Green, Jodi Hawkins, Rick Rhodes, Judith Swift, Linda Acciaro and Michael Rice.

**Absent:** Jeff Callahan, Bob Weygand, Bob Drapeau

### Issue for Green Goals

The meeting began with a discussion on the direction for our Green Goals. Discussion highlights included:

- How do we face the upfront costs of our main projects? It was noted that we are facing extreme issues with projects. At what point do we recognize the value of the green goal?
- New projects should be LEED certified and the earlier focus in planning for green goals in your plans, the lesser the cost. Suggestion was made to have a member of MPRT LEED certified so they could offer advice to the committee on these issues. **Will Green** indicated a willingness to be certified. There is a web page for LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficient Design) certification. **Rick Rhodes** said he would send the URL to Eileen to circulate to the committee. Green Building Council website is <http://www.usgbc.org/>
- LEED certification has different levels and we need to set an internal target for the North District new buildings, i.e. Silver level. **Paul DePace** reported that the new residence hall will be LEED certified.
- Is there a set of green goals? Could we get faculty certified? There was a suggestion that we need a "sustainable czar" on campus. Will Green indicated that there was discussion with McDonough & Partners about green goals when we started the north district project. Will indicated that he had written up a definition of scope and goals.  
**Action:** **Ann Morrissey** will develop a draft for review of sustainable philosophy and that the MPRT could use in future project reviews from a previous document that Will Green drafted for the McDonough URI plan.

**Paul DePace** indicated that Capital Projects would carefully analyze and articulate the affect on budget by including sustainability concepts over the long run of building operations as each project is planned so that decision makers can properly evaluate elements of sustainability when considering the short-term savings of reduced construction costs.

### **Planning for Visitor's Center:**

At the request of the URI Admissions Office, a discussion was brought forward about the URI visitor's center and whether plans for a new one could be considered.

Discussion points included:

- **The visitor's center has an important potential role in attracting students, welcoming students, families, and the community to campus.** It is the often the first point of contact. It should be a priority for investment by the University because it could have significant impact on public relations among other things.
- **A visitor's center needs to be customer focused.** The current visitor's center is too small and there is not enough parking spaces. There is no sense of hospitality and for people coming on campus for events and lectures, etc. , it sends a bad message. Whether it should be combined with parking services was questioned.
- **The location of a visitor's center is critical.** There may be an opportunity to build something on the corner east of Lambda Chi Alpha.
- **The operational aspects of a visitor's center are important to its success.** It requires long hours of operation, staffing, etc
- UMASS & UCONN both have nice visitor's centers funded by gift donations.
- Recommendation made to first ask whether the President would support the investment of time and effort to develop a plan for a visitor's center. Ann will follow up with him. Upon approval, MPRT will convene a task group to develop a vision and mission. Considerations would be given to its intended purpose, partnering opportunities, such as with the South County Tourism Council or the Kingston Historical Society. Once this was complete, the MPRT would forward it to the President and the JSPC for future consideration. **Ann will follow up on this agenda.**

### **Next Agenda:**

Parking & Transportation Update -- Bob Drapeau

Parking for people with disabilities

Review of new student housing & new dining hall projects

Next phase of summer projects

Implementation planning

North Campus plan -- tentative

Update on visitor center planning

Meeting adjourned 2:35 p.m.