University of Oregon – Student Recreation Center
Workshop #3 – Conceptual/Schematic Design

AGENDA

DATE	**November 15, 2011**
LOCATION	**University of Oregon – SRC Bonus Room**

Tuesday, Nov. 15	
Noon - 4:00pm	**Project User Group Meeting 3A** – SRC, PUG, SRC MGMT
Noon	Opening Comments (Gene Mowery)
12:05pm	Review Agenda (Carl Sherwood)
12:10pm	Review Expanded Program (Jack Patton via internet) • Program Summary • Program Space Diagrams/Room Data Sheets • Program Area / Cost Model Update • Confirmation of Focus Group Decisions/Recommendations • What's in the Program/What's Out
1:00pm	Foundational Sustainability Concepts (Michael Andresen)
1:25pm	BREAK
1:30pm	Develop "Full Scope" Conceptual Design Alternatives (All) • Develop Stacking/Blocking Schemes (interactive)
3:00pm	Evaluate the Benefits/Drawbacks of each Alternative (Jeff Schaub, Carl Sherwood) • Pro/Con Analysis • Identify Preferred Alternative(s) for further Study / Development
3:30pm	<u>Key Questions/Decisions</u>: • Free Zone Strategy • Natatorium Location • Gym Location • Phasing – Future Esslinger Space Relocation • Locker Room Placement • Outdoor Pool • East Side View Spaces
3:50pm	Wrap Up / Conclusions / Notes (Jeff Schaub / Carl Sherwood)

OBJECTIVES

- Updated, Expanded Preliminary Program
- Updated Program Area/Cost Model
- Expanded Understanding of Key Functional Relationships
- Developed and Evaluated Concept Design Alternative(s)

QUESTIONS

In our preparations for Workshop 3, our Design Team studies have synthesized a number of questions that we look forward to exploring with you. We offer them here as an introduction to our collaborative, interactive design session that will take place at the User Group Meeting 3A. Near the end of our agenda we will come back to these questions as decision points upon which to measure our progress in answering these relative to our Concept Design Alternatives.

- **What does it mean to have a free zone walk-thru building on multiple levels while still maintaining access to Esslinger?**
- **What does it mean to have a main level pool or a lower level pool?**
- **What if the new 3 court gym is on a different level than the existing gym? What does it do to the massing and scale of the addition?**
- **How does phase 2 extend from phase 1?**
- **How does the creation of new lockers in the new addition have an impact on the plan and transparency of the addition?**
- **What are the implications of creating an exterior pool and how does it affect the yellow zone?**
- **How do we push smaller spaces to the east so that we can envelope the big boxes and capture dynamic views?**

PATTERNS

During the course of this Workshop we will engage with you in building upon the conceptual design directions explored at the previous meetings. As we now add in the possible future replacement of spaces currently in Esslinger Hall to the mix, the concepts grow ever more complex. Conceptualizing this possible future is important in the process of discovering the optimum design approach that best suits both present and future design goals.

The Design Team has selected the following Patterns for you to review (we will too) before we begin our workshop with you this week. We believe these Patterns to be a few of those more relevant to the design issues and opportunities that we will be addressing together over the next several days. As always, we hope that our conversations will focus our collaboration on moving ahead with a common understanding.

CLEAR ORGANIZATION, SIGHTLINES, AND ADJACENCY

The current layout of the SRC isn't so straightforward. The facility has been altered several times, resulting in a maze of spaces and corridors in certain areas, particularly in the older parts. The difficulty of way-finding can be frustrating for users and does not contribute to a welcoming environment.

Therefore, organize space so that way-finding is easy and intuitive. Create easy circulation patterns with a system of corridors, stairways, ramps, and elevators that provide clear sightlines and common-sense adjacencies. Where appropriate and helpful, provide sightlines between activities so that users can see through one activity area to another. Organize the entrance and lobby area with consideration for showcasing all the SRC has to offer, so that users know what opportunities exist and feel welcome and encouraged. Layouts, particularly with respect to spaces filled with exercise equipment, should be efficient and allow users to easily see who else is there.

- ***Creating a circulation path that passes through a rec center provides an opportunity for users and non-users to "shop the activities" within.***
- ***Views into activity spaces from the main lobby are desirable, which aids the process of attracting users into these spaces.***
- ***Seeing activity spaces is a good thing, and highly desirable to this Committee.***
- ***Proper organization of spaces is important.***
- Design visual corridors that allow patrons to see and be seen in a rec center.

SUPPORTIVE OF SOCIAL INTERACTION

The Student Recreation Center is not just for recreation. It's also a place where students, faculty, and staff can socialize. Social interaction can play an important part in academic and professional success. Research shows that students who have developed peer support groups and feel a sense of belonging and identity with their college or university have higher grades and are more likely to graduate (from 2004 YGH Study). Social interaction helps strengthen relationships among fellow students and colleagues, and can lead to an open exchange of ideas and new understandings that benefit academic and professional pursuits. The current facility lacks social gathering spaces and interaction nodes and has no identifiable "hearth" or building "heart."

Therefore, the recreation center's open areas, activity spaces, and service areas should showcase activity and facilitate social interaction through locating informal activity spaces off circulation paths, establishing social

nodes and levels of transparency through spaces based on activities. These informal spaces should be suitable for various levels of interaction as well as informal group study. Consider the right size, location and quality of space to encourage frequent use of these areas. An identifiable building "hearth" should be created and should be designed with consideration for beverage and light food service.

- ***Furniture is an important part of how we all experience a building environment.***
- ***Creating a circulation path that passes through a rec center provides an opportunity for users and non-users to "shop the activities" within.***
- ***Views into activity spaces from the main lobby are desirable, which aids the process of attracting users into these spaces.***
- ***Seeing activity spaces is a good thing, and highly desirable to this Committee.***
- ***Design visual corridors that allow patrons to see and be seen in a rec center.***
- ***Having small pockets of social space throughout a facility is desirable for the Committee.***

DT Oneness of the Place - This place could be a "center " for the students and other users. Is this an important consideration in the stacking, connections and makeup of the place?

ENOUGH SPACE AND CAPACITY

With as many as 6,500 users on some days, space is so limited that the facility gets overly crowded, and classes and open recreation cannot occur in the same space simultaneously. The SRC's goal is to be able to fully meet all the varied needs of its users. In the short and long term, the SRC should have the ability to react to trends and create more (and a diverse selection of) programs.

Therefore, organize layouts and provide enough space and capacity to allow users to drop in and do anything they wish. Pay particular attention to areas in which both drop-in activities and classes occur, such as cardio areas, weight room, natatorium. Consider long-term growth, and provide enough capacity and flexibility to allow the SRC to respond to trends and fully meet the needs of its users. Consider the capability for vertical expansion in the future.

EASY ACCESS, YET APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF ACCESS CONTROL

The SRC has a variety of functions and many different types of activities take place in the building. These activities range from academic physical education courses to drop-in exercise, meetings, events, casual gatherings, and administration all with varying levels of need for access control.

Therefore, consider the range of activities that will happen in the building. Design the spatial layout with consideration for the particular access control needs for the variety of activities in the building, associated outdoor areas, and adjacent Esslinger Hall.

QUALITY OF LIGHT

Daylight, the use of which results in energy savings, is an important aspect to wellness and psychological comfort for building users; it is also beneficial to many of the tasks performed by building occupants. However, glare from daylighting may cause eye-strain for employees who use computer monitors.

THEREFORE: Provide ample opportunities for daylight throughout the building in both private and public areas. When possible and appropriate, opportunities to bring natural light into areas further from the perimeter of the building such as clerestory windows, interior windows, or windowed doors should be considered. Provide appropriate shading and defusing devices and furniture arrangement to eliminate glare on computer screens. **Daylight and quality of light is highly valued and desirable. However, glare can be a dangerous problem for some activities. In swimming, glare affects the lifeguard's ability to see the bottom of the pool. Consider other situations where glare may have negative impacts on the user's experience.**

FRESH AIR

People are sensitive to odor, often associating cleanliness with smell, and are not likely to frequent a place that lacks fresh air or holds unpleasant odors. Recreational activities necessarily engage people in close proximity to each other in team or group-use activities. Clear, fresh air, free from high concentrations of carbon dioxide, chemical smells, and high levels of moisture, is necessary to encourage use of the facility and to maximize health benefits.

Therefore, air temperature and humidity levels need particular attention and consideration for the special needs of varying recreational activities such as weight lifting, jogging, cardio, swimming, and mind/body exercise. The systems must be flexible enough to adapt to desired adjustments in air quality and to future recreation trends. Consideration of balancing energy use and environmental impacts when designing solutions for air quality is important.

LEAVE THE GOOD PARTS ALONE

Some spaces within the existing building work well as they are. Other elements of the building, including wood flooring materials, are worth keeping as well. It makes economic sense to retain the parts of the building that work as they are and focus the renovation efforts on the parts that do not work.

Therefore, when renovation plans are made, those areas thought to work well as they are should be left alone.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

[See "Policy 7: Architectural Style and Historic Preservation"]

The continuity of the university's campus environment is materially affected by the character and architectural styles of the buildings that are constructed.

THEREFORE: Make the design of new buildings compatible and harmonious with the design of adjacent buildings (on and off campus), though they need not (and in some cases should not) mimic them.

Excerpt from the Project Description:
Architectural Style

The character and architectural style of campus buildings are important in maintaining the quality of the campus environment. The cohesiveness of the campus is to be maintained by creating new buildings that are compatible and harmonious with the design, orientation, and scale of adjacent buildings, though they need not (and in some cases should not) mimic them. In order to accomplish this, buildings are to follow the general principles grounded in the designs of the Ellis Lawrence buildings on campus. Emphasis is to be placed on materials (generally brick) and compositions (clear main entrances, the scale and rhythm of openings) of the Lawrence era buildings in order to create buildings that are human-scaled. Designs must relate to the overall campus character and, as a general rule, should avoid large, blank facades; large areas of glazing; or unbroken, horizontally oriented windows (ribbon windows). The current Student Recreation Center facility is a successful example of blending with the existing building (Esslinger Hall) but still appearing as a distinct building. Interacting with multiple buildings, this expansion project presents the same challenge and is held to the same expectation of being harmonious with the existing adjacent buildings but with its own dynamic appeal.

DYNAMIC BUILDING

The Student Recreation Center should reflect the nature of the activity contained within. Individuals develop an impression of the building immediately upon seeing it and their initial experience within it, and these impressions affect their perception of the building's quality and atmosphere.

Therefore, ensure that the character of the building attracts campus constituents and encourages them to use the resources and services offered. The building should communicate the unique nature of the facility and create a "continuing buzz" through design qualities that are energizing, inspiring, and spirited.

- ***Bold is not necessarily beautiful or "right."***
- ***Bold interior spaces are very desirable.***
- ***Powerful visual excitement and interest is highly desirable to the Committee.***
- ***Don't' let form run roughshod over function. Make sure the two can well marry in your facility.***
- ***Being excessive (in space, or bling, or volume) can make a University look like a poor steward of resources.***
- ***UO wants intelligent, well thought-out design, not excess!***
- ***Be aware of creating spaces that are "too open." They may be unacceptably noisy, negatively impact audibility of the human voice, and or filled with too much reverberation.***
- ***A dynamic, high-flying jogging track can be beautiful for some, and scary for others!***
- ***Wayfinding should as intuitive as possible for patrons.***
- ***Good wayfinding (with signage, if necessary) is critical.***
- ***Environmental Graphics are a powerful story telling medium. This is desirable.***
- ***Using bold colors or school colors in a "heavy handed" way can easily create an undesirable result. Be intentional about application of bold and primary colors.***

DT Student Spirit - Is this another academic building or one that has a distinct character that reflects the enthusiasm, spirit and creativity of the students in its shape form and statement?

DT Northwest/UO Character - The climate offers the opportunity for more use of the out of doors for program support. Distinct natural light and wind/rain patterns, technology, and craft. Views from and to the site and the need for identity.

SOUTH FACING OUTDOORS

People use open space if it is sunny, and they don't use it if it isn't.

THEREFORE: Place buildings so that the open space intended for use is on the south side of the buildings. Avoid putting open space in the shadow of buildings. And never let a deep strip of shade separate a sunny area from the building it serves.

- ***Physical access to the out-of-doors for a Leisure Pool is very important***

DT The visited facilities reside in places that the climate is not outdoor friendly. How much of the program can be relegated to the outdoors year round and not replicated with built structures. Example the covered tennis courts or basketball court

GOOD NEIGHBOR

It's easy to be so focused on making campus projects as wonderful as possible for their users that we ignore their impacts on our neighbors.

THEREFORE: Consider each project's impacts on neighbors and community. For example, what will the building look like from outside the campus boundaries? What parking impacts may spill over into other areas? **The expanded area will be in prominent view from areas east of campus. The Project strives to generate a positive visual image to the neighborhood and areas on campus to the east.**

PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS*

[See "Pathways" in "Policy 2: Open-space Framework"]

Pedestrian travel should be encouraged as an essential component of the campus experience. Pedestrian activity creates an environment that encourages interaction and discourages automobile use.

THEREFORE: Promote walking by creating a system of interconnected pathways as an alternative to street sidewalks. This pathway system will be considered part of the campus open-space framework**. The Project is adjacent to a major bike and pedestrian pathway, which runs from 15th Ave. to 18th Ave. There are great opportunities for the Project to interact with the pathway along its entire length.**

POSITIVE OUTDOOR SPACE

In general, outdoor spaces that are merely "left over" between buildings will not be used.

THEREFORE: Always place buildings so that they embrace the outdoor spaces they form. Design the landscape so that some sides of the outdoor space are defined by buildings and some by arcades, trees, or low walls. Be sure to leave entrances to the outdoor "room" at several points so people can pass freely through the space and travel to other connecting outdoor spaces.

FAMILY OF ENTRANCES

When people enter a complex of buildings, they may experience confusion unless the whole collection of entries is laid out so they can see the entrance to the place they are going.

THEREFORE: Lay out the entrances to form a family. This means:

1. They form a group, are visible together, and each is visible from all the others.
2. They are all clearly recognizable as entrances.