

**Subcommittee on Twin Cities Facilities
and Support Services Meeting Minutes**

October 19, 2010

8:30 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Weisman 111

[In these minutes ~ Weisman Art Museum expansion and construction site tour; committee business]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Delegation; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Delegation, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

Present: Lyndel King (chair), Bernadette Corley Troge, Mathew Pensyl, Anthony DeAngelis, Keith Carlson, Kevin Upton, Gary Davis, Stephan Roos, Jeremy Todd, Joseph Jameson, David Crane, Denny Olsen, Michael Berthelsen, George Wilcox

Regrets: Lorelee Wederstrom, Laurie Schiech, Gregory Cibuzar

Absent: None

Guest: John Allen, Weisman Art Museum and Brett Dunlap, Project Manager for J.E. Dunn

Lyndel King called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. She asked the committee members to introduce themselves. Ms. King then informed the committee members that the Faculty Consultative Committee formed an ad hoc committee to look at the current Senate Committee structure. The ad hoc committee suggested that the Subcommittee on Twin Cities Facilities and Support Services (STCFSS) be merged with the Classroom Advisory Subcommittee. She asked STCFSS members to e-mail her with any feedback on this issue and stated it could also be discussed in future STCFSS meetings.

Ms. King also reminded the committee that they would be meeting in Morrill Hall beginning in February due to the construction at the Weisman Art Museum.

Expansion of the Weisman Art Museum – Dr. Lyndel King,

Ms. King gave a brief history of the construction of the Weisman Art Museum and pointed out architect Frank Gehry's studies on the walls of the conference room. She stated the Weisman was the first museum he designed from the ground up. It took 18 months to design and 18 months to build, but it did not include all of the gallery space that was originally planned. The Weisman opened in 1993. From 1934 until that time, it was located on the third and fourth floors of Northrup Auditorium. Ms. King explained the difficulties with the Northrup location including summer closures due to heat and the museum's lack of identity.

Ms. King went on to explain the process for selecting Frank Gehry as the architect. Because the Weisman was privately funded, the State Architecture Review Board was not involved in the

selection of the architect. Instead, an interview process was conducted and four finalists were chosen. Of these four, Frank Gehry best understood the goals for the Weisman and was selected unanimously by the committee.

Ms. King went on to explain the allocation of space in the museum. Sixty percent of the space is for “behind the scenes” operations and forty percent is public space. The expansion of the museum will provide the amount of gallery space that was originally desired, and hopefully provide students with the opportunity to enjoy art as much as hockey. There will be four new galleries:

- The gallery for works of art on paper
 - There are 8000 works of art on paper in the Weismann collection.
 - The works on display in this gallery will be changed three times per year.
- The painting and sculpture gallery
 - This gallery will display early 20th century American paintings and sculptures.
 - They will be on display for at least five years.
- The ceramics gallery
 - There are 4000 works in the Weismann collection.
 - The exhibits will be large, long-standing, and broad.
 - The works will be displayed from one year to 18 months.
- The Target Studio
 - Occupies the space on the north side of the building
 - It is a less finished space and will have a more experimental style.
 - It is designed to bring individuals from different disciplines together for creative collaboration.

Ms. King also mentioned that a curator is being hired for three years, and a competition is being launched to design the space between the Weismann and the Science Teaching and Student Services building. The space will serve as a gateway into the University.

Next, Ms. King discussed the financing of the Weisman addition. She stated \$14 million was privately raised. Two million was designated from the foundation, and \$1.5 million was provided by the University to rebuild the bridge from the Target Studio to Coffman Union.

The committee then took a tour of the construction site. Brett Dunlap the project manager from J.E. Dunn and John Allen from the Weisman conducted the tour. The scheduled completion date for the Weisman addition is May 2011 and it will re-open to the public in October 2011. The committee first toured the Target Gallery. It has 16-foot wood doors that provide access into the existing gallery. It also has numerous skylights. The skylights are uniquely designed to prevent direct light from hitting the walls and damaging the artwork. They also have shades with solar sensors. Additional features include a catwalk level for staff and a brick veneer exterior. The galleries have varying ceiling heights to meet the needs of the works being displayed in them. For instance, the gallery for works of art on paper has a 14-foot ceiling, while the galleries for American paintings and sculpture, and the ceramics galleries have 18-foot ceilings. Mr. Dunn also discussed the unique requirements for humidity control in the building. He noted that the vapor barriers in the floor wall and ceiling were “tied together” to maintain humidity at 50%. He also discussed the pre-engineered white oak wood flooring being installed and the new products allowing the floors to be finished on site. He next described the waterproofing strategy for the

roofs in light of the large number of seems. Bernadette Corley Troge asked how water would be moved away from the building. Mr. Dunn responded that the drainage mat and the slope of the structural deck assist with this. Next, Mr. Dunn pointed out the four columns on the southeast side of the addition that support the cantilevered floor and the 40-inch concrete slab that insulates the floor. He also noted the high level of attention to detail throughout the addition. For instance, the original exterior brick is no longer available. So, the construction team had to carefully blend the new brick with the original brick, and make adjustments to match the color of the existing mortar joints. They also custom fabricated the rivets and insured they all extended the same length.

Following the tour, the committee briefly discussed the resolution it is drafting in support of Capital Planning and Project Management's (CPPM) efforts for process and policy simplification in the construction process. Ms. King indicated that the resolution should be general in nature. Professor Roos commented that the resolution should reference cost effectiveness and the necessity of meeting quality goals. It was also noted that the decision making process has gotten more complex due to growing risk aversion at the University.

Professor Roos asked Ms. King if she would provide a short presentation on the decision making process for selecting contractors for the Weisman expansion. She stated a lowest bid method was used for the initial Weisman construction; however, the addition used a different system. Under this system, the cost estimates were more accurate, and they have not needed to utilize the contingency funds. Ms. King stated she would bring in a speaker to discuss this topic in the Spring, and that the committee should also invite Mike Perkins, vice president of CPPM to speak to the committee again.

Hearing no further business, Ms. King adjourned the meeting.

Dawn Zugay
University Senate Office