Meeting Notes

Project Name: St. Lawrence University – Facilities Master Plan
Project #: 12001
Meeting Title: SLU Facilities Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
Date and Time: June 7, 2012  1:00-3:30pm, Hannon Room, Sullivan Student Center
Attendees: See sign-in sheet (attached)
- St. Lawrence University Master Plan Advisory Committee
- Saratoga Associates
- Beardsley Design Associates
- Scott Page Architect (by conference call)

Purpose/Intent of Meeting:
To provide a project update, related to the facility assessment, space programming, student housing and project phasing

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Bullet Items of Discussion:

1. Rob Southerland reviewed the agenda that had been distributed to the Master Plan Advisory Committee prior to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gain feedback on “preliminary” concepts prior to presenting an update to the Board of Trustees at the Canaras retreat scheduled for June 22-24.

2. Facilities Assessment - Michael Reynolds presented an update on the facilities assessment phase of the project. The fieldwork surveys to evaluate 11 academic buildings, 10 residence halls and 4 support buildings have been completed and the narrative descriptions are in process. The residence halls have been evaluated to determine which halls should have the highest priority for renovation. Dean-Eaton was ranked as the highest priority with Whitman Hall ranked as the second highest priority.
The relationship of the “SLU Climate Action Plan” to the Facilities Master Plan was discussed. It was recommended that all future renovations to buildings include envelope upgrades, progress in conjunction with overall interior renovations and exceed NYS Energy Code wherever possible. A thermal image of Dean-Eaton was shown as an example of a building with significant heat loss due to inadequate building envelope conditions. A number of studies were recommended to evaluate geo-thermal, solar and biomass as future energy sources to reduce the SLU carbon footprint. A member of the MP Advisory Committee raised the question of how future sustainability projects can be integrated into the campus capital planning. It was noted that a past project involving fieldhouse lighting upgrades was not implemented even though there was an early economic payback. Dan Seaman explained that the resources were not available at the time to implement the project. The master plan team noted that for future renovation projects, the economic benefit of “green” strategies should be included in the overall planning from the beginning of the project planning. It was also noted that a student on the “Sustainability Committee” had recommended that future capital campaigns include sustainability as a component of fund raising.

3. Academic and Support Space Assessment – Scott Page, academic space planner, explained an updated analysis of the campus space needs. “Preliminary” projected needs for individual academic departments were explained in relationship to existing space use. The space analysis indicated an overall space need of 34,000 assignable square feet for support and academic space (non-residential space) based on existing need and the projected enrollment. This need accounts for vacant space in Bewkes Hall and the future removal of the Whitman Annex.

The concept of “academic clusters” was reviewed emphasizing how the clusters for the Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities Education and the Arts can be reinforced at the north and south portions of the campus core area. “Preliminary” departmental space needs for each cluster were discussed. Contemporary pedagogies for teaching were discussed with the analysis of the existing classroom inventory at SLU. This involves going beyond lecture; incorporating more problem based learning and team based learning. The planning for future space needs at SLU should recognize the desired learning pedagogies with appropriate classroom environments. Examples of classrooms from other universities were shown to illustrate the physical layout of floorplans and teaching/study spaces.

Three options were identified for the “Sciences Cluster”. Option 1 involves a multi-phased renovation following the concepts that have been previously developed for Bewkes Hall. Option 2 considers vacating Bewkes Hall entirely
to renovate the building in one phase. This would require temporary space for the departments within the building. A question was raised by an Advisory Committee member as to the potential issues of being in temporary facilities for a long period of time and the associated impacts that this would have on academic programs in Bewkes Hall. Option 3 involved vacating Bewkes entirely with an emphasis on the development of classroom space to improve the teaching environments as noted earlier. This option would also require temporary facilities for the existing departmental spaces in Bewkes until space in other space was renovated. It was emphasized that the advantages and disadvantages of these options need to be analyzed further from a cost, phasing and functional standpoint. Members of the Advisory Committee requested that more detail be provide that would identify specific department locations and adjacencies in the Bewkes, Brown, Flint and Valentine Sciences cluster. Scott Page will be working on this analysis for the three options.

A “preliminary” program for future space was presented that involved elements related to Social Sciences, including the proposed business Arts major. A new building to accommodate these program elements could serve as space to allow for the phased renovation and renewal of Hepburn, Richardson and Atwood Halls.

4. Concept Phase - Rob Southerland presented a series of “guiding principles” for the master plan. These involve; “maximizing the use of available resources”, reinforcing the “Climate Action Plan”, developing the right spaces in the right buildings, enhancing the campus open space system, promoting a pedestrian campus, foster campus community interaction and build on the rich traditions and culture of SLU.

A slide was shown that identified the major items that the planning team has heard from the “charrette”, interviews, campus meetings and on-site analysis. This included potential building renovation projects, open space and pedestrian circulation, vehicular circulation and arrival, new building in-fill sites, new student housing sites and student service locations. The existing academic clusters of the campus were illustrated on a slide and the potential to repurpose the area involving Memorial and Piskor Halls for academic/support uses was explained. This could involve the renovation of Memorial Hall for administrative support space and Piskor Hall for student services and academic/support space, with the potential of relocating the existing student services in the Whitman Hall Annex to Piskor.

Student Housing – Rob Southerland reviewed the zones on the campus that were evaluated for new student housing. It is estimated that 130 new beds are need for the fall 2014. this bed count will be finalized by the Senior Staff prior
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<td>to the Canaras Trustee retreat. Three options were identified for the location of new student housing. Option 1 involved the infill of a new gateway addition between Whitman and Rebert Halls. Option 2 added additions to Priest, Reif and Gaines to accommodate the projected bed need. Option involved the development of a Dean-Eaton residential street and quadrangle enhancement siting a new residence hall at the southern edge of the quadrangle. This option was identified as “Greening the Green”. The quadrangle could be enhanced with the removal of parking, regrading to make the quad more suitable for outdoor activities and events, and additional landscaping of deciduous trees. It was noted that the quad could be a major zone for the incorporation of geothermal wells to help provide heating and cooling for nearby existing and future buildings. Views to the Chapel were noted as important as well as Dean-Eaton by members of the planning team and Advisory committee. Slides that depicted this option were shown as well as calculations that determined that the removal of parking combined with the in-fill of one residence hall would actually slightly increase the area in “green space”. The option of a second in-fill building located in the roadway and parking area to the east of the Nobel Center was discussed. There would be no net loss of total “green space” with a second building occupying existing hardscape areas in roads and parking. The options also considered the potential of relocating the existing road from the south side of Villas to the north. There are grading issues here that need to be analyzed. Overall the “greening of the green” option was considered favorably, recognizing the details for parking, ADA requirements, service and emergency access would need to be analyzed.</td>
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<td>A future building in-fill site was identified on the west side of Hepburn Hall that could accommodate some of the projected space needs related to the Social Sciences cluster. This site was considered for student housing during earlier master plan discussions and at the “charrette”, but is now considered a prime location for academic/support space based on the “preliminary” space projections and the location of this site in the Social Sciences cluster zone of the campus.</td>
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<td>5. Preliminary Project Phasing – Rob Southerland identified three phases for the Master Plan; Short-term 2012-2014, Mid-Term 2015-2019, and Long-Term 2020+. An initial identification of which projects would be allocated into the three phases was discussed. The Short-Term Phase would include accommodating the required student beds for the Fall 2014 semester, the renovation of Bewkes Hall, and the potential renovation of Herring-Cole Hall as a donor based project. The phasing for the Master Plan will be developed based on priorities and available funding. Cost estimates for the various projects will be developed once the “preferred” concepts have been established.</td>
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**Item** 6. Next Steps – The Master Plan team will present a project update to the Senior Staff on June 21 and provide an update to the Board of Trustees at the Canaras Retreat on June 22-23.

Submitted, June 14, 2012
SARATOGA ASSOCIATES
Landscape Architects, Architects, Engineers, and Planners, P.C.

R. Southerland