

## **DUC + MPC Feasibility Study - Project Visioning Exercise**

**Location: Dobbs University Center - Room 338**

**Start: Tue 9/3/2013 9:30 AM**

**End: Tue 9/3/2013 11:30 AM**

### **Required Attendees:**

Bymaster, Eric - Assistant VP, Finance & Ops/Campus Life

Furhman, David S - Sr Dir, Food Service Admin

Perlman, Benjamin - Director, Dobbs University Center

Osiecka, Maria Anna – Emory student

Fabrick, Jen - University Architect

Moran, Julie – Emory Capital Planner, Planning Design & Construct

Johnson, James R - Project Manager, University Landscape Architect

Ebrahimi, Sherry - Director, University Conferences, Housing & Res Life

Kloss, Michael P - Chief, Protocol/ Executive Director, University Events

Newnam, William E - Assoc Exec Director, Barkley Forum

Shutt, Michael D - Director, LGBTLife

Romestant, Mary - Director, Housing Operations, Housing & Res Life

Wilson, Andy - Senior Associate Dean for External Relations, VP & Dean for Campus Life

Willis, Matthew W - Emory student

Fowler, Stephen Michael - Emory student

Porcello, Karoline Mary - Emory College student

Robertson, Bryce T - Emory student

Anand, Raghvi - Emory student

Fullerton, Randy - Senior Lecturer, Theater Studies

Patel, Raj Kartik - Emory student

Nowak, Jessica Nicole - Emory student

Optional Attendees: Stoudenmire, Nelda - Administrative Coordinator, VP & Dean for Campus Life

### **RANDY'S NOTES:**

This appeared to be an introductory session led by the architectural firm of Perkins & Will, and evidently this was the first time that all of the “stakeholders” in the DUC were assembled in one room.

The session started with the architects giving a PowerPoint presentation in which they highlighted some of their previous projects and accomplishments. Throughout the presentation they stressed that they do not know the scope of the DUC project and to not be misled by the variety of expensive renovations and new construction projects that they were showing us. This was the beginning of a “fact finding” period in which they will be determining what is possible for Emory’s DUC project and what makes the most sense.

The architects then lead us through a variety of exercises in which we wrote down quick responses to a series of questions. (e.g. Why do the students come to the DUC, why do you come to the DUC, and etc.) Of particular note, the question was raised, “If you had to get rid of a particular group or program in the DUC, who would it be?” *We did not discuss the answers.* The architects collected the 3 X 5 cards on which we wrote our answers and posted them about the room under headings such as “Student Life,” “Accessibility,” “Environmental Issues” and etc. The architects explained that they would be studying the cards as they try to get a sense of the programming needs of the building.

Following the series of questions, the architects opened the floor for general discussion. Basically, pleasantries were exchanged throughout the following discussions and the architects encouraged us to dig deep into some of the underlying issues that were not being said. A variety of Campus Life issues and programs were discussed, and I realized that the topic of the theater had not come up yet. I reminded everyone that I was from the Theater Department and gave my brief history as to how it related to the

AMUC, the DUC and the MGM. I cited a variety of issues regarding accessibility to the theater, lack of space for the variety of activities that occur and the deferred maintenance and poor HVAC systems that exist in that part of the DUC. While I feel that the majority of the attendees in the room have an appreciation of the conditions under which the theater personnel have to work, several expressed that they would like to see a new theater built somewhere on campus so that they could utilize the theater spaces.

The notion of a **A NEW MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING** built to the west of the PE Center was discussed. Jen Fabrick pointed out that this new building could be a solution to many of the space issues in the DUC but to not assume that such a building would be approved and not necessarily in the near future.

The notion of a **NEW THEATER** for Theater Studies and for Theater Emory was discussed. The architects asked if this was a possibility. My response was “not very likely” and Jen Fabrick quickly added that they should not even consider that as a solution when considering the scope of this project. However we did discuss the idea that a new theater/performance space could be the next step for Theater Studies and Theater Emory but many conversations would need to take place with the appropriate individuals in theater before such an endeavor was considered.

The question was asked, “How long will this process take and when can we see a completed project?” The architects responded with the statement that the SCOPE of the project has yet to be determined and the question of NEW VS RENOVATED has yet to be discussed at length. However, in order to answer the question, the architect gave the following possible (but unlikely) scenario:

- Initial Study & Programing phase – 4 months (Sept – Dec 2013)
- Design phase – 6 months (Jan – June 2014)
- Construction – 18 to 24 months (June 2014 – June 2016)

Jen Fabrick was quick to point out that this would be a very aggressive schedule as the proper university committees have not even heard of this project yet and the eventual scheduling of presentations and discussions with the proper individuals would complicate and lengthen this process.

There will be further meetings over the next few months. The meetings will be coordinated by Emory Campus Planning with the architects noting that they need time to review the materials collected during this session and discuss future possible conversations.

As I was leaving the meeting, I gave my card to the lead architect telling him that I was available for tours of the Schwartz Center as related to current resources utilized by theater in the DUC.