

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Monday, June 9th, 2025 Meeting Minutes
In-Person Meeting

Architectural Commission

X	Anne Marie Borys, Interim Chair	Associate Professor, College of Architecture	Voting
X	Gundula Proksch, Vice Chair	Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship	Voting
X	John Syvertsen	Professional Member	Voting
X	Edwin Harris	Professional Member	Voting
X	Marlon Blackwell	Professional Member	Voting
X	Julie Snow	Professional Member	Voting
X	Valerie Lange	Student Member	Voting
X	Jonathan Bechtol	Student Member	Voting
X	Rod Worden	Interim Vice President, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Steve Tatge	Associate Vice President of Asset Management, UW Facilities	Ex Officio
X	Kristine Kenney	Executive Director of Campus Architecture & Planning, UWF	Ex Officio

Minutes by Laura Salish, Executive Assistant to the Director of Campus Architecture & Planning

Call to Order

The Interim Chair of the Architectural Commission Anne Marie Borys, called the meeting to order. The Commission members introduced themselves to the UW Welcome Center team.

Approval of Past Minutes and Current Agenda

The March 24th, 2025 meeting minutes and current agenda were approved. John Syvertsen moved to approve; Julie Snow seconded.

Rod Worden provided an overview of the current state of the UW budget that are impacting the work that we do. Essentially, state asked for a 5% budget reduction. Made modest changes to staffing—eliminated 26 unfilled FTE positions. We receive approximately the same amount from the Federal government. They want to reduce the amount of money they are providing to us (from approximately 50% to 15%). Federal gov't is not funding certain programs/grants. Not renewing, no proposals for new grants. Cannot continue to tweak service levels for the next upcoming cut. We may not be able to keep up with how beautiful this campus is. How do we sustain great things great, moving forward?

The University is on the precipice of building a beautiful new Welcome Center. There is a real concern about how it can be maintained in light of reduced budgets and fewer resources.

Interdisciplinary Engineering Building, just opened, there was a protest a few weeks ago, Boeing was a major supporter of the building, which is why they targeted the building. They did about a million dollars of damage to the lab equipment. 37 people were arrested, 21 were students and that has impacted their ability to graduate. John Syvertsen discussed how this could impact projects and challenge architects to help us meet the needs of less labor intensive maintenance.

Welcome Center Slating Committee

Josh Distler, PDG Project Manager, provided background and team information. Will discuss project parameters and how that translates into scope. Will also discuss Architect Selection Process.

Project Statement: the proposed Welcome Center will be a vibrant inspiring place housing a variety of uses. Including the UW Visitor's Center, the starting point for campus tours and prospective student programming.

Project Goals:

- Serve as a front door/porch/anchor for UW
- Connect the public to the University's mission, vision and values
- Be the key curator of the first impressions for the recruitment and retention of prospective students, faculty and staff
- Place for alumni to come back to on a regular basis

Project Scope:

- Starting point for campus tours and student programming
- Alumni center and alumni association programming
- Community and neighborhood programming
- Event, conference and lecture space
- University branded retail sales
- Social spaces for casual gatherings
- Programmed exterior plaza
- Extensive story telling exhibit experience describing past, present and future

Site vs Building footprint (diagram)

Campus Integration

Preserve and strengthen the campus built environment

Project Budget and schedule

Design build budget 45 million

Currently at the start of predesign

Hope to have substantial completion by Summer 2028

Design Build partner Onboarding

January 2025 – Design Builder

May/June 2025 - Architect Selection

Invited RFQ Process

- GOA
- Leers Weinzapfel
- Lever
- Michael Maltzan Architecture
- NADAAA
- Olson Kuding
- Studio Gang
- Studio Tsien
- Weiss Manfredi
- WORKac*

Had more teams interested unsolicited than any project in UW History

Architect RFQ Evaluation Criteria

Portfolio of design excellence
Relevant project experience
Equity and inclusion
Design build experience, team fit, and cultural alignment
Team Members

Slating Committee Interviews

Short List of 5 firms advanced to Slating Committee Interviews

- **GOA**
- Leers Weinzapfel
- **Studio Tsien**
- **Olson Kundig**
- NADAAA
- *Bolded options above moved forward

Flew to Boston on Memorial Day, had interviews across NE and flew back to Seattle for interview with local firm.

Welcome Center Architect Interview #1: Studio Tsien

Welcome Center Architect Interview #2: GOA

Welcome Center Architect Interview #3: Olson Kundig

Welcome Center Architect Recommendation Deliberations

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

The next meeting will be held online on September 8th, 2025.