

Open House Remarks (8/21/08)

Update and summary of process to date:

- Architects began their work late May; preliminary meetings with constituents in late May; tours of Regents and Old Science in June; focus groups in August; processing of all the feedback we have received and exploration of architects' preliminary plans.
- Everyone received an e-mail with the revised vision statement, which incorporates the main insights gained through our meetings over the summer. The vision statement captures our charge, reflects the priorities we heard from all you constituents, and guides our planning.
- Key elements of what we heard that the design addresses:
 - Adjacencies:
 - Student Services: clustered
 - World language departments: quiet workspaces, language-specific areas, flexible classrooms
 - President/Provost/Treasurer office share/close proximity
 - Education and TRIO in close proximity
 - Centers in close proximity
 - Public Safety near a parking lot
 - Quality of space concerns:
 - Ample natural light
 - Excellent acoustical isolation
 - Attention to office-specific needs for privacy within a building that promotes collaboration
 - Ample informal and welcoming gathering spaces for all: students, staff, faculty, and visitors
- If you have not yet had time to read the revised vision statement, I invite you to do so to gain a more detailed understanding of the building's underlying principles.

Next Steps:

- Focus groups will finish their first phase of recommendations soon. Groups may continue their work off and on depending on the needs of the project
- Next 6 months will see the Project move through the Design Phase and then through the creation of the Construction Documents. During the Design Phase (in the next couple of months) departments and clusters of programs will be asked for input about the specifics of their spaces.
- Next summer demolition will begin with construction immediately following.
- Occupancy Fall of 2010.