UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

Testimony on the "System-Level Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan" Resolution

Marguerite Butler <mbutler808@gmail.com> Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 8:12 AM
To: Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

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3 attachments

TestimonyonPlanning.pdf
441K

DCPSM_SpaceandFurniturePlanningGuidelines_v3_April_2009.pdf
4144K

UHM Space Guidelines - April 2015.pdf
792K

Testimony on the “System-Level Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan” Resolution

Aloha President Lassner and Regents,

I applaud you on your strategic thinking in ordering the “Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan” at the system level. What is sorely needed at UH Mānoa is a similarly strategic for the flagship campus.

The fact is that faculty are losing faith in the campus administration’s ability to plan space. Consultation is woefully inadequate to the point of being non-existent. Biology faculty were not consulted on the Snyder renovation plan and learned of it only by BOR agenda item. English faculty learned of the plan to move them out of Kuykendall into renovated old Snyder just a couple of weeks ago. This is “notification”, not consultation.

Faculty are not able to get straight answers from administration on such basic questions as (1) WHEN will the decision be made about WHO will go in the new building? (2) WHO is making this decision? We asked these questions of the campus planner just on Monday with no clear response. It is VERY LATE to not know.

Faculty are told that “Your dean will be the single point of contact” for the Snyder renovation. Our new dean is doing a great job and making a tremendous effort to advocate for us. However, WHY can’t the campus planner speak *directly* to the potential users? Chairs and deans do not know every minor detail about every facility their faculty or programs need, at least with just a few days of notice. They then cannot inform the campus planner of their needs to the square foot. Indeed, the campus planner should be more concerned with the nature of the facilities to accommodate, rather than the number of people and their positions, i.e., square feet per faculty member *versus* per graduate student.

The impression we get is that the deal or deals have been done, and now we are just wasting our time or are being deliberately delayed until the plans are put to paper. Then it's too late. Why so bureaucratic? Campus administrators give the impression of wanting to do a good job, but are their hands tied by others. By whom? Is everyone not interested in producing a useful, vibrant building for its users?

Thus, faculty are not really been asked what they NEED for their programs. They have been told what they will be GIVEN. We are repeatedly told, “Well, you can kill the plan if you want … but don’t you want space in the new building?” Why is it either take it and be happy, or kill the plan?

Biology faculty have done everything possible to aid administration in space management and fulfilling our missions to undergraduates, but without an reciprocal concern about our programmatic needs from administration.

We have added new degree programs and our enrollment has ballooned, at the same time as our overall space allocation has shrunk. We have increased the numbers of laboratory sections to the maximum allotted by classrooms, and increased the frequency of course offerings by less-than-ideal use of temporary faculty, but we are simply out of space and personnel resources. We have nowhere to increase offerings of high-enrollment core courses and our students will begin to suffer.

We have had to give up substantial research space, forcing 14 faculty and their research programs into space that was designed by 10. This has resulted in:

-- Graduate students being evicted from their office space to Keller Hall, then to PSB, then to nowhere. We now have 47 graduate students without desk space on campus.

-- Loss of all space for a vivarium for animal research, for marine research space (with two new programs in Marine Biology!), space for our boats, access to light and temperature controlled rooms.

-- An additional 8 faculty with no permanent research space, scattered to the far reaches of campus.

-- Important and substantial collections of Pacific fauna shoved in the nooks and crannies of Biomed and Henke Hall.

-- An endowed faculty member with no research space at all.

-- Concerned about our junior faculty and their research programs.

Why must we CHOOSE between adequate space for Teaching and Research? Isn't it the job of the campus administration to ensure that the programs have sufficient resources to thrive?

Our concerns fall on deaf ears. Campus administration tells us that we have too much space. How would they know? They have not talked to us about the state of our programs. Campus administration tells us that the site is fixed and dictated by System. This is not true.

Campus administration really does not appear to care about the damage to our program that will ensue if Biology is split in half. Also, that the Department of Microbiology with whom Biology shares facilities and students will be moved from a neighboring building to somewhere distant. We will need substantial sums of money and time to duplicate assets we currently share with Microbiology, not to mention the intellectual knowledge and research opportunities we and our students can access in the building currently adjacent to Edmondson.

Campus administration is dictating space allocations in a way that betrays either a conflict of interest or a lack of consideration that a distant site for New Snyder will erode the ability of students to collaborate with biology faculty in research. Or both.

Campus administration appears not to care that the design of Edmondson was dependent on Snyder providing additional services after its own renovation.

Campus administration appears not to care that separating "New Snyder" from "New Edmondson" will result in lack of efficiency, increased cost due to needed duplication of services, and loss of synergies and community.

I am concerned about the clear conflict of interest displayed by the VCR in the process of space allocation, supporting his unit (as Dean of SOEST, while wearing the iVCR's hat) over

those of the College of Natural Sciences. I am also concerned about the level of **power play demonstrated between the VCAA and the VCR** for control over the space, and the **lack of concern for the health of the academic programs demonstrated by both**. Who is in charge?

Space Allocation Guidelines. In the course of the crisis that ensued as a result of learning about major decisions being made about my program's future space, I have been studying space guidelines here and elsewhere. I was dismayed to learn how UHM's space document compares to those of other universities. I draw your attention to the space guidelines "Stanford University Space and Furniture Planning Guidelines". It is a comprehensive analysis of space planning, and accounts for space needs of research and teaching programs in a holistic manner. In addition to a research lab, it has prorated accounting for research support spaces, auxiliary spaces, and personnel space. It lists every potential need to consider to ensure productivity and functionality. In contrast, the UHM document is woefully incomplete - Edmondson is held as an ideal example - but the plan fails to account for space for such basic needs as research equipment and sinks! The space allocated is bench only with no research support. No research program would survive with such inadequate space planning.

The UHM planners have never returned to Edmondson to consult with us about how it's going -- How is that new building working out? -- How can they possibly know it's an ideal design? They did not even bother to ensure that we have an autoclave in the building. Perhaps because the autoclaves we use are in Snyder, and we would have continued to use them in a renovated Snyder. Without Microbiology in Snyder we will need $70,000 for two autoclaves in Edmondson, plus annual service and maintenance contracts in the sum of $15,000 per year. Who will pay for these? The campus planners? We will also need hoods retrofitted into the first and second floors of Edmondson, which will be even more expensive, and displace precious classroom space in an maximally used floor plan.

Another difference is that the Stanford document is filled with data -- comparative data from other institutions with citations, definitions, and information about the nuances of planning. There is a credit page listing the authors of the document and the extensive advisory panel with excellent credentials that developed the guidelines. The UHM document has no such information.

Faculty are worried. We worry that critical decisions are being made without consultation, with ignorance of programmatic needs, and in short for the wrong reasons. We worry that the people who will end up paying for these mistakes over the life of the building -- the next 50 years -- are the students and faculty.

I respectfully request an emergency examination of the situation by competent planners. *That examination should be neither headed by nor staffed by any of the current Manoa Planning Committee, or any of those involved in this 'new Snyder' debacle.* I applaud your efforts to produce an integrated system-level planning. However you must also promote comprehensive

planning at the campus level with strong faculty involvement. I urge you also to broaden beyond efficiencies and emphasize educational quality, academic excellence, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

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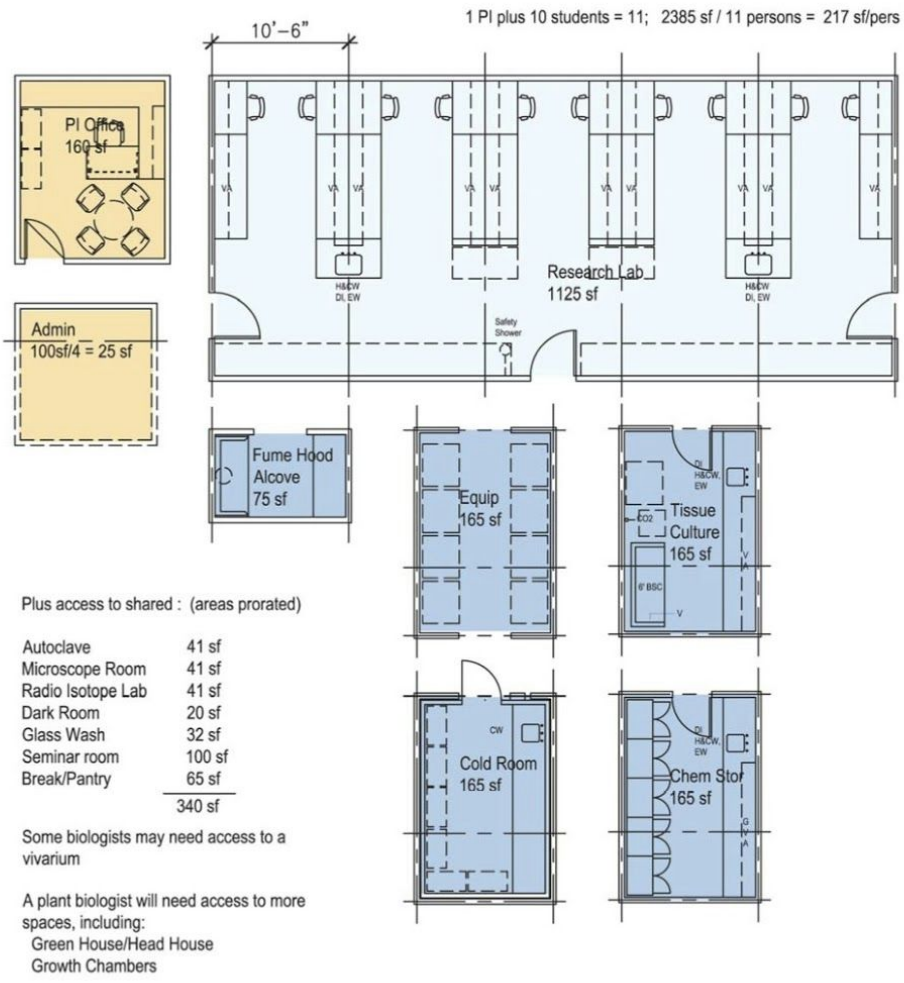
Figure 14B
Typical Wet Laboratory Layout
~2,385 sf per PI
(Illustration by Perkins+Will Architects)



Page 44 from ""Stanford University Space and Furniture Planning Guidelines" -- could be shared research space for 2 PIs in Life Sciences at UH, or 1 PI with large program.

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3.250.2 Research Laboratory- Sample Layouts

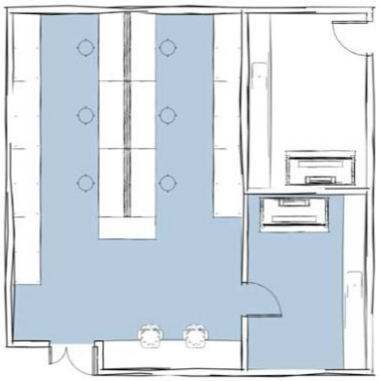

Figure 9. Research laboratory- Single

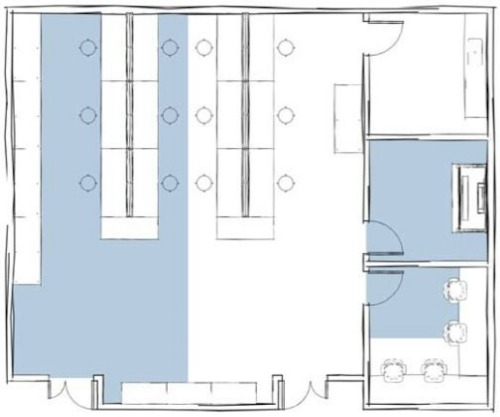

Figure 10. Research laboratory- Double

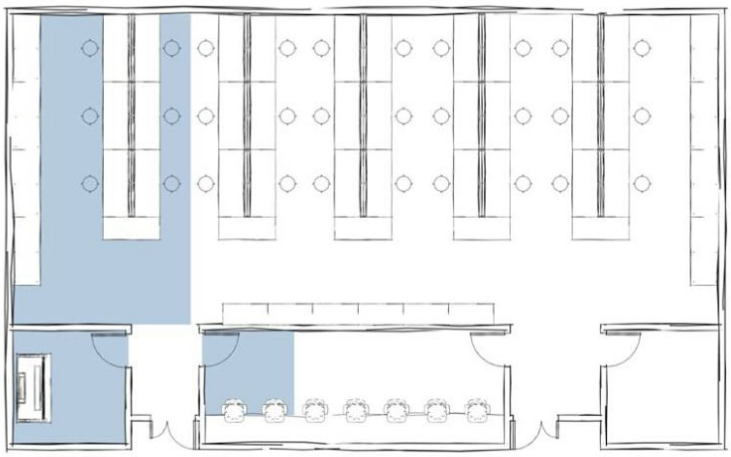

Figure 11. Research laboratory- Multiple

Pg. 17 from “UHM Space Planning Guidelines” with blue indicating space for one PI. No auxiliary research services, personnel not accounted for. No space for sinks or equipment. Inadequate bench space for 1 PI and 4 personnel per lab.

Attachments

UHM Space Planning Guidelines
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/opf/documents/policies/UHM%20Space%20Guidelines%20-%20April%202015.pdf

Stanford University Space & Furniture Planning Guidelines
https://lbre.stanford.edu/sites/all/lbre-shared/files/docs_public/DCPSM_SpaceandFurniturePlanningGuidelines_v3_April_2009.pdf