

Minutes

Uris Vision Committee Minutes of the Meeting of October 8, 2018

In attendance:

Co-Chairs: Maya Tolstoy

Professors: Michael Cole, Farah Griffin, Ruben Gonzalez, Oliver Hobert, John Huber, Pamela Smith, Christopher Washburne

Libraries: Barbara Rockenbach

Ex-Officio: Curtis Rodgers, Jana Wright, Eugene Villalobos

Students: Mike Ford, Aja Johnson, William Veitch

Staff: Jessica Guenzel, Fredrik Palm, Rose Razaghian

1. The meeting began with a tour of the current Uris Building after which the committee discussed the current drabness of the building and its claustrophobic feeling, as well as ideas for cleaning out some of the private office spaces and allowing more natural light into the building. There were varying opinions on the desirability of providing collaborative work spaces and offices with glass walls.
2. The committee also discussed the cost of completely renovating Uris by refiguring classroom and office spaces, removing many of the partitions that divide space into small, dark cubicles and offices, and creating innovative collaborative spaces. How completely the building can be changed depends on the creation of a compelling academic vision that will excite donors.
3. If floors 4 to 8 were used for swing space as in the original plan, those floors could accommodate all of the administrative and department space for most of the non-science buildings on the Morningside campus, with some room left over.
4. There was a discussion of the need to preserve the existing classroom space in Uris, given the severe shortage across campus and a general sense that space that can be shared and used by many groups is going to be the most useful space.
5. The committee discussed at some length the pros and cons of creating for the tower floors a set of themed spaces that could at least in part be used on a rotating basis by different groups of scholars. Some of these groups might build curricula as well as do collaborative research.
6. The group returned to the problem of how to open up the tower floors to create seminar space, more natural light, and a welcoming atmosphere.
7. The committee was reminded that this term we are not deciding which units will be located in Uris, but what *kind* of intellectual work we imagine being done there and examples of

possible co-locations and uses of space that would make for intellectual synergies and a vibrant teaching, learning, and research environment.

8. The meeting concluded with promise that Interim EVP Maya Tolstoy would find an architectural sketch done for David Madigan that showed one possible way to create an extension on the front of Uris to make a more welcoming and student-friendly entrance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Guenzel