

MINUTES

Uris Vision Committee
December 3, 2018

In attendance:

Co-Chairs: Jean Howard, Maya Tolstoy

Professors: Michael Cole, Farah Griffin, Ruben Gonzalez, John Huber, Pamela Smith, Tian Zheng

Libraries: Barbara Rockenbach

Students: Mike Ford, Aja Johnson

Ex-Officio: Carlos Alonso, Gene Villalobos, Jana Wright

Staff: Carolyn Keen, Fredrik Palm, Rose Razaghian

1. There were strong expressions of support for the general vision for the building that the Committee has developed over the course of the semester. Discussion centered on several areas where further refinement is necessary.
2. The first question was how much detail to include about the processes by which the tower floors will be filled. It was decided that fleshing out those processes will be the work of the second semester if the general vision for the building finds approval with the faculty at large and the upper administration.
3. The committee also talked about adding more examples of the *kinds* of units or projects that might be included in the tower floors. It was agreed that some of this detail should be added to the proposal to make it easier for readers to envision what might happen there. The committee brainstormed about the projects, centers, and departments that might serve as examples of what might go into the building, with the understanding that these examples were in no way meant to be determinative of final decisions.
4. There was also a sustained discussion of the balance between permanent assignments to the tower floors and more short-term assignments springing from grass roots initiatives. The committee agreed that at least some space should be reserved for faculty initiatives since doing so supports the overarching vision for the building as a place where faculty develop cutting edge work, some of it collaboratively generated, in spaces that encourage crossing disciplinary boundaries.
5. The committee also urged that the document include a paragraph making clear that its vision for the building would to some extent alleviate the space crunch felt everywhere within the Arts and Sciences, but that a full resolution of that problem would not occur without the development of a long-range plan for renewing the buildings across the Morningside Campus. Nonetheless, the committee's report should spell out the various ways that the renovated Uris could help with the space crunch while providing better teaching, research, and convening spaces for everyone within Arts and Sciences.