



Campus Master Plan outlines UWindsor's Vision for the next 50 years

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On the occasion of the University of Windsor's 50th Anniversary, a Campus Master Plan has been released that establishes a vision for the next 50 years, with an attractive design that enriches both the student and the community experience, and positions the university to be more competitive. The University's Board of Governors approved the conceptual plan today.

"This plan works in conjunction with our Campus Transformation Plan to determine what the spaces in between our buildings will look like, and how the buildings connect with each other. The plan will act as a guide for future decisions regarding the aesthetics of new buildings, and it identifies key projects that could help unify the campus, and that could be undertaken as funding opportunities permit," said Alan Wildeman, President and Vice-Chancellor.

The University of Windsor engaged +VG Architects, The Ventin Group Ltd. to conduct extensive consultations with administration, faculty members, students, the Board of Governors, and community stakeholders to develop the new plan. These brainstorming groups imagined new pedestrian pathways enhanced with lighting, landscaping and signage that will lead to various hubs of activity for recreation, cultural displays, water features and gathering spaces with seating. This plan also heightens the sense of arrival on campus with impressive gateway signage, welcoming points of interest and sought-after destinations reached through easily accessible entry points to help navigate the campus.

The plan also reflects some very creative thinking, with suggestions for major changes such as building a landscaped pedestrian bridge over the railway tracks to link the Human Kinetics and athletics complex with the central campus. Also, the residence quad located near the corner of Wyandotte and Huron Church could be consolidated into new buildings on the real estate currently occupied by the Clark residences on Sunset to create a village atmosphere. This would free up space on campus for an open-air amphitheatre attached to the Dramatic Arts building.

The design includes a new central link that draws a connection from the Leddy Library commons area, north on Patricia to the riverfront. Distinctive links with the new downtown campus along University Avenue are also envisioned to help unite the two campuses and ease the transition of traffic between each location.

Paul Sapounzi, a partner in +VG said, "Careful attention was paid to ensure accessibility to all, and to incorporate car-free areas, locate parking at the campus perimeter, and accommodate future technology such as hybrid vehicles and transit."

Also during today's meeting, the Board of Governors approved proceeding with plans to award the design-build contract for the Welcome Centre within an overall budget of \$8 million. The Welcome Centre will be the first capital project to specifically align with the design concepts in the Campus Master Plan.



Located near the northwest corner of Sunset Avenue and Wyandotte, the Welcome Centre is aptly named to function as the front door to campus, becoming the official address and main identifier of the university. It is the gateway through which new and prospective students enter and where they will return as alumni members. It will be approximately 20,000 square feet and will house the administrative offices of student admissions and recruitment, alumni affairs, annual giving and stewardship, the University campaign office, public affairs and communications and a bookstore kiosk to sell branded merchandise.

The awarding of the design/build contract is expected to happen this August with construction beginning this fall, and completion tentatively scheduled for the end of 2014.

To review the new Campus Master Plan, please visit:

www.uwindsor.ca/campus-master-plan

+VG Architects is a full-service architectural firm offering new design, expansions and heritage restorations for cultural, educational, municipal, justice, healthcare, residential and recreational facilities. Our staff of +50 operates in four offices in Ontario, in Brantford, Kitchener, Toronto and Belleville.

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