

UC Transformation Project Development Committee
Kickoff Meeting Minutes – 7/13/2011

In attendance: Spencer Moore, Jonathan Thurston, Mei Chang (**UH FP&C**); Keith Kowalka, Micah Kenfield, Lawrence Daniel, Cheryl Grew-Gillen (**University Centers**); Jared Gogets, Andrew Michael (**The New UC**); Mike Harding (**SGA**); Rich Bamburak (**WTW**); Marie Hoke, John Smith, Jeff Chittenden (**WHR**); Don Nye (**E&C**); Kristi Grizzle, S.R. Pinnapurreddy (**WPM**); Geoff Basford, Terryll Sturrock, Terry Basford (**4b Tech**); Paul Weathers (**CCA**); David Joiner (**Jaffeholden**); William Burrus (**AON**); Guy Cooke, Jeff Johnston, Terry Hargus, Ezra Wilson (**Tellepsen**)

The meeting began with a discussion, led by Assistant Vice President for Student Development Keith Kowalka, on what the transformed University Center complex needs to be. Since student fees almost completely finance this project, the transformed University Center must be:

- A hub of the campus environment
- A home for people to relax
- Unique to UH – a “Cougar” experience
- The provider of choice for activities and programs
- Open, with significant student ‘hang-out’ space and movable furniture
- Improved with regard to food service
- A mall-type environment
- Easier to navigate with better wayfinding and centralized retail
- More synergistic with student activities, ideally with student organizations having dedicate space above the UC Underground

However, this vision of the design team must be anchored by “practicality” of construction team with certain concerns:

- The biggest goal must be to fix the infrastructure of the current University Center
- The “prison” look of existing finishes must also be addressed
- Therefore, an open and honest design process with everyone “laying their cards on the table” is required.
 - Toward this end, UC staff volunteered to maintain a communications plan / website / Facebook presence for the project, featuring content supplied by the design team.
- UC Staff indicated willingness to compromise on certain aspects of the program like office space given how high a priority certain “alternates” like the building exterior refinish are.
- Other changes like the location of food services are not ‘off the table’ at this juncture; however, a key concern is “cost neutrality”—that is, that total project cost not rise as a result of changes.
- Costs can also be decreased by shortening the amount of time project construction takes

After a tour of the University Center facilities and a few brief closing comments, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting date was set for July 22.