

Minutes

Uris Vision Committee
Minutes of Meeting of September 24, 2018

In attendance:

Co-Chairs: Jean Howard, Maya Tolstoy

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

Libraries: Barbara Rockenbach

Ex-Officio: Carlos Alonso, Eugene Villalobos

Students: Mike Ford, Aja Johnson, William Veitch

Staff: Jessica Guenzel, Fredrik Palm, Rose Razaghian

1. Interim Executive Vice President Maya Tolstoy explained the mandate of the committee, available [here](#). She urged the Committee to produce an intellectual vision for Uris that would be forward-looking, serving the needs of Arts and Sciences' students and faculty in the twenty-first century. She explained that a prior plan to use much of Uris for swing space while other buildings on the Morningside campus were renovated had been put aside because President Bollinger can not encumber his successor with commitments that will run into the billions of dollars. The challenge at this moment is to produce a vision for Uris by the middle of this academic year that can be used to fundraise for a complete overhaul of Uris when it comes vacant in four years. This fundraising effort can be folded into the ongoing capital campaign.
2. Jean Howard explained the history of the prior Uris Space Committee that had met five times during David Madigan's time in office. That committee had decided that the upper floors of Uris should be reserved as swing space and the lower three floors used to create teaching and learning spaces that would serve the common good and perhaps to locate there a few academic units that serve a genuinely interdisciplinary purpose. That committee had not felt that dividing the space randomly between departments would be as beneficial as thinking about using the space to create synergies among units located there.
3. Maya Tolstoy urged the committee to think about the upper floors as each possibly dedicated to a theme such as "Just Societies." Some Centers or Departments might be permanently located on each floor with space left for related short-term interdisciplinary projects for which proposals would be submitted and competitively judged. The Uris Vision Committee is tasked precisely with figuring out what particular uses of the space will be most beneficial to Arts and Sciences students and faculty.
4. Fred Palm presented an overview of the space presently occupied by the Arts and Sciences and the new space that will come available in Uris.
5. The Committee had an initial discussion of possible uses of the building and asked questions about asbestos removal, reconfiguring the current space, the advisability of

moving some faculty temporarily into interdisciplinary spaces and away from home departments, how to build synergies among co-located entities through the use of space, and whether labs could ever be put into the building.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Guenzel