Understand the Other Side:

Capital Project Insights from Trustees and Administrators

Presented by:
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“You don’t know what you don’t know.” Everyone wants to do a good job on a facilities project, but it can be hard when you don't understand the other side’s unique perspectives, needs, goals, and competing demands. This session features insights from people who have been on both sides of a project – as architects, engineers, and sustainability professionals who also serve as college trustees or administrators. We'll share how to nurture empathy, prevent misunderstanding, and make your next facilities project run more smoothly.
Learning Outcomes

1. Describe what can go wrong during client/consultant interactions when you don't understand the other side's concerns, circumstances, or issues.

2. Prevent common facilities project issues and delays by broadening your understanding of (and empathy for) the other side.

3. List insights and lessons learned from AEC professionals who have been on both sides of the client/consultant relationship.

4. Discuss methods to improve collaboration and team dynamics on facilities projects.
What type of organization are you with?

• University
• Construction
• Architecture
• Engineering
• Landscape Architecture
• Planning
• Other

Who also serves on a University Facilities Committee?
Who Are We?

James Kolker, FAIA
University Architect
Washington University in St. Louis
Principal: 1989-2009

Sylvia Smith, FAIA, LEED AP
Senior Partner, FXCollaborative
Dickinson College Trustee
Chair of Facilities Committee

Judith Nitsch, PE, LEED AP BD+C
Founding Principal, Nitsch Engineering
WPI Trustee
Chair of Facilities Committee
VSBA Experience
• Founded in 1853 (non-sectarian since its founding)
• Originally located downtown, St. Louis
• Five campuses (205 acres); environmental research station (2,000 acres); four municipalities (St. Louis City, Clayton, University City, Eureka, MO)
• Total Enrollment (Undergraduate and Graduate): 15,000
• 65% of students come from 500 miles away
• 7 schools and related entities
• Over 14,000 FT students representing 50 states and 90 countries
• Top research institution with research funding (approximately $711 MN in 2018)
• #15 Ranked Endowment ($7.7 BN)
• 4,182 distinguished faculty; 25 Nobel Laureates
• Leading Healthcare provider in region
• 3rd largest employer in St. Louis
Dickinson College Campus
Dickinson College Statistics

• Chartered in 1783 (first college founded after the formation of the United States)
• Core tenets: Community of inquiry, independent thinking, engaged citizenry. Agents of positive change.
• 2,345 full-time students
  • 38 U.S. states/territories and 49 foreign countries
  • Two-thirds of students study abroad
• 9:1 student-faculty ratio
• Top producer of Fulbright US students and international scholars
• 144 Acres / 73 Buildings
• Sustainability integrated into academics, facilities, operations, and campus culture
• Rated #1 in AASHE’s Sustainable Campus Index
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Campus
WPI’s Gateway Park Campus
WPI Statistics

WPI in 2019:

• 50 years of Project-Based Learning for both Interactive and Major Projects
• 50+ Global Project Centers on six continents
• 4,650 Undergraduate Students
• 2,220 Graduate Students
• Students from 49 States & 68 countries
• 100% of WPI students receive a global project scholarship
• 50+ degree programs in engineering, arts & sciences, and business
• 95 Acres / 87 Buildings

The Fun Facts:

• Paul Ventimiglia ’12 was the 2018 BattleBots world champion for the third time, with his robot “Bite Force”
• WPI is the most popular Robotics Engineering major in the nation (College Factual)
• WPI was ranked in all 3 career-related categories in the 2018 The Princeton Review: Best Career Services (#5), Best Career Placement (#6), and Best School for Internships (#21)
• The Wall Street Journal ranked WPI as #1 for faculty that best combine research and teaching
• Other famous alums: Robert Goddard, Bob Stempel, Michelle Gass, Curt Carlson, Dean Kamen
• Freshman class is 40% female
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Questions?

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