

Memo

To: President Eastman & Dean Chapin
From: Charlie Canerday, Denise Flaherty, Ed Gallizzi, and David Grove
CC: Bill McKenna
Date: March 27, 2007
Re: Report: PKAL Science Building Workshop

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the recent Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL) Facilities Workshop in Washington D.C. This workshop was geared specifically toward "Planning Facilities for Undergraduate Science & Mathematics." The quality of information that we received at this workshop was excellent and extremely beneficial. It has charged us, as participants, with great enthusiasm to contribute in whatever ways the college deems useful to the planning and success of the long and complex task of creating a new science building on campus.

The first way that we can certainly contribute is to share with you and the college some of the important information we received. The conference was all about "What Works" when creating a new science building. Embedded within this, of course, were demonstrations of what does not work. To keep this as brief and readable as possible, we have attached a two-page list of key points, action items, and design ideas. We begin, however, with the following three items:

1. With the planning of a new science center, and perhaps any new academic building, the building design team must keep the College's overall **mission** in mind.
2. The College's collective **vision** for the sciences needs to be crafted and carefully articulated.
 - a. These should not be hastily formed words that sound reasonable, but rather a mantra that all planners and users will rally behind to make the process a success.
 - b. PKAL workshop directors reiterated this point several times, as this is considered one of the key areas where building planning processes often falter or cause frustration early on. Ideally, you want all persons who will be affected by the existence of this building (administrators, planners, scientists, all faculty and students) to be able to complete the following two sentences: "Eckerd is planning a new science center because . . ." and "This is exciting for the college because . . ."
3. The important role of the Collegium of Natural Sciences is to provide support to the building project in the following ways:
 - a. Identify the pedagogical methods used and desired
 - b. Identify the desired characteristics of the Eckerd Science Graduate
 - c. Identify what we do well, and build on those strengths through innovation
 - d. Encourage the faculty to consider interdisciplinary approaches to both pedagogy and research that can take place in this space.
 - e. Be advocates that the space is first and foremost for Eckerd students.
 - f. Identify and communicate to the administration what would need to happen to make the statement, "Student-faculty research is the hallmark of the Eckerd experience," a reality for more than a small percentage of our science students.