

Learning Commons 11/12/18 Update

On Nov. 6, Vice Provost Tom Herrinton, hosted a faculty forum on the state of the Learning Commons building.

The Learning Commons Stakeholders Group convened on Nov. 8, to:

- (1) reconsider the recommendation regarding the podocarpus tree and adjoining patio area;
- (2) discuss the additional value engineering that must be completed.

The recommendation regarding the podocarpus tree. Although the Stakeholders Group agreed that there were issues involved with keeping the podocarpus tree, they also considered the substantial feedback on the proposed removal. It was determined that removing the tree is not essential to the building project. Given the community response, the Stakeholder Group voted to recommend keeping the podocarpus tree. President Harris, Provost Baker and VP Snyder have accepted this recommendation and the tree will remain.

It is worth noting that the decision to keep the podocarpus tree was one of the last decisions needed before the construction plan documents can be submitted to the city. The plan submittal process is necessary and important to maintain the projected timeline for project completion. Groundbreaking is scheduled to begin after finals in May, 2019, with a planned completion date of mid-August 2020. The expectation is that the Learning Commons will be open for the Fall 2020 semester. Because this decision has been finalized, the process is now underway, and plan submittal will occur soon.

Additional Value Engineering. The Stakeholder Group also discussed additional value engineering that needs to be completed because the current construction estimate is higher than the construction budget. It is important to note that the value engineering will not affect the program of the building, nor will it affect structural or mechanical elements that would require the resubmittal of plans. Two items currently being examined include the amount of ornamentation on the outside of the building and the number of sections in each window, (i.e., each pane of glass could be one piece of glass with an exterior metal frame or nine pieces of glass built into a metal frame).

Thank you for your continued interest in the Learning Commons. Please continue to [visit our webpage](#) for updates.

Dr. Herrinton