

MC Design Meeting 10.2.18 Feedback Received

	Question/Feedback	Response (Information below was summarized from in-room responses offered by SG and LINK)
1	I like the drum version of the planetarium.	Thank you for your feedback.
2	The planetarium expressed out is a general strength. When it is sucked into the platform, it's not as strong. I prefer the version that pushes the planetarium out.	Thank you for your feedback.
3	The center portion of the building with the skylight hole is a good feature to give more light in the center of the building.	Thank you for your feedback. Natural light is a major factor of all concepts and we are trying to be creative with how to keep the building as low as possible while letting natural light into the center of the facility.
4	I prefer concept 2; I don't like the planetarium sticking out. I would like a little light coming through on that side, to make Takoma Ave. brighter/more well lit.	In her September 29, 2017 letter, President Dr. DeRionne Pollard issued design directives including, "minimize windows along Takoma Avenue to reduce lighting impacts." Thank you for this observation, it will be taken into consideration.
5	The right kind of light coming off of the building is important. It should be effective to promote safety.	In her September 29, 2017 letter, President Dr. DeRionne Pollard issued design directives including, "minimize windows along Takoma Avenue to reduce lighting impacts." This is helpful to hear.
6	The light around Nunley is not too bright. It's nice and makes it the building and campus approachable.	In her September 29, 2017 letter, President Dr. DeRionne Pollard issued design directives including, "minimize windows along Takoma Avenue to reduce lighting impacts." This observation is helpful to hear.
7	Light that emits from the building is fine for us.	In her September 29, 2017 letter, President Dr. DeRionne Pollard issued design directives including, "minimize windows along Takoma Avenue to reduce lighting impacts." This observation is helpful to hear.
8	Concept 3 had created a very long area of dark space at night, from building height and shadows on the building. This varying height of the other concepts now seems less dark/dead.	Thank you for your feedback.
9	In regards to the ribbon of glass along concept 2, can the light come out in chunks/specific areas so that it better matches the residential area?	This is something that can be incorporated. Even if the windows look like glass from the outside, there can be treatments behind the glass, such as solid walls or window shades that are automated that can achieve this light balance.

10	With the taller building in the center, different lighting options might be more important.	This is a great point and will be taken into consideration.
11	I would rather see lighting than dead space of the planetarium along the Takoma side.	In her September 29, 2017 letter, President Dr. DeRionne Pollard issued design directives including, "minimize windows along Takoma Avenue to reduce lighting impacts." This observation is helpful to hear.
12	Of the two, concept 2 is much better.	Thank you for your feedback. We hope to engage more to understand what elements are more preferable than concept 2.5.
13	I am concerned that the massing along the New York Ave. side is a lot bigger than the rest of the building.	The largest amount of massing is actually along Fenton Street. Concepts 2 and 2.5 both have a smaller amount of mass on the quad side and is set back from the street.
14	Is there a way to break down the massing along the New York Ave. side to make it seem less intrusive?	In concept 2.5 - one way we have tried to break up the massing is by introducing a masonry/stone material at the lowest level that helps give the look of being a site wall. The two stories above it have been pushed away from Takoma farther also to help with scale. The building is 200' pushed back from New York Avenue. Additionally, because the ground level is higher at New York Avenue than the lowest level of the building, the perceived height will be shorter than what one experiences when standing on the new quad, at the lower elevation where the existing tennis courts are today.
15	The United Therapeutics building, on Colesville and Spring, has a nice style of design elements. Maybe you could consider using these elements.	Thank you for your feedback. This building has great elements to respond to scale, massing, and provide screening from sun elements. Thank you for this example.
16	You made concept 2 much taller than last time. Why is that?	Concept 2 is the same height as it was presented on 9/11. The mechanical screen wall moved to align with the building walls, perhaps giving the appearance that it is taller, but it is the same height.
17	The larger concept 2 feels massive.	Concept 2 is less broken up than concept 2.5, in that respect it might feel more massive. The two concepts are the same size.
18	In general, instead of breaking down the building into different sized boxes, it's preferable to push the mass back along Fenton.	Previously we heard that neighbors and community members expressed a desire to keep the building more closely aligned to the existing Falcon Hall and Science South locations.
19	This design looks more compatible for a residential community on the railroad tracks side. That is the opposite of what we want the design to do.	With regard to massing, the breakdown of scale and greater articulation have been focused on the quad (New York Ave.) and Takoma Avenue sides. Regarding the reorganization of the mechanical equipment to the building, we felt that this design created a middle ground, to allow for lower mass on the quad and on Fenton. We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.

20	Pushing mechanical units towards the middle of the roof is better because no where else do you have a view of that expanse. The surrounding architecture matches better with pushing the mass to the center of campus.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
21	Concept 3 was too tall.	This was what we heard from many community members, which is why it was dropped from further development.
22	Now the design concepts feel oddly flipped. Is there any way to flip the bars.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
23	What percentage of the building's energy will pull from the solar panels? That is definitely something to consider.	This is something that will be calculated once we have a more final design concept.
24	Is there a way to shift the solar to the front of the building to push the mechanical to the back, towards Science North.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment, which will affect the placement of solar panels.
25	Does the penthouse have to be the same material? Can it appear to be lighter?	The penthouse can appear lighter. Some community members expressed a desire for it to look more like the rest of the building and less "mechanical."
26	We don't want to see the mechanical. That is important for residents.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical and will take this feedback into consideration.
27	As far as screening is concerned, 2.5 is much more beneficial than 2. I like the long horizontals of the fins, rather than the vertical window punches.	Thank you for this feedback. Both concepts have different pros and cons for how things are screened.
28	I like the horizontal lines on 2.5.	Thank you for your feedback.
29	One way to lower the height overall is to lower the height of the floors/stories. Bringing them down would be best.	We hope this will be able to be achieved and will be looking to determine how to do that. We are currently carrying a 16' floor level height. As we get a better understanding of the structural system and space demands for mechanical equipment, we will then determine if we can reduce that height.
30	What is lower cost-steel or concrete?	It depends on market demands, price of steel, and availability of product. The cost estimator and Construction Manager at Risk will provide better information and make recommendations based on those factors for the team to consider.
31	Costs associated with lead time may affect the design. Budget is a factor that should be considered in the design elements.	We agree. Thank you for this feedback.
32	The stone is really nice.	Thank you for your feedback.

33	Keep the stone base.	Thank you for your feedback.
34	Yes, stone is great.	Thank you for your feedback.
35	Concept 2.5's center piece is ugly, looks like the 70s. Don't use that. The style feels like there's no design.	We will look at how to better articulate the facades to address this concern. The goal is for the building to not be evocative of the brutalist style of the 1970s.
36	What will be presented at the October 16th meeting?	The design team and LINK will present refined iterations based on comments from 10/2 and considerations from meetings with Montgomery College's academic group.
37	On the Fenton side, you have tall windows on first floor- why is it so tall? Those windows are high.	The windows are tall but narrow - this is to allow for light to get into the lab spaces, while providing plenty of wall space for cabinets and equipment.
38	I think the tall windows work better with design of 2.5.	Thank you for your feedback.
39	You could use a mixed pallet brick.	This is something we will consider once we start refining the material selections.
40	The beige palette is very important. If you use color, make it interesting.	This is something we will consider. Finding the right balance of adjacent context is important, and color is part of that consideration.
41	Are steps on the Fenton side necessary?	Some steps will likely be necessary. This will be coordinated with grading and civil/landscape design to minimize as much as possible.
42	I prefer the shape of 2, and the materials of 2.5.	We will look at how to further incorporate the preferences of both concepts into the final design concept as much as possible.
43	I would like to see the lowering of the middle part, but prefer the shape of 2.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
44	Will there be an entrance on the south side?	No. There is no plan for an entrance on the Takoma Avenue side of the building.
45	I'm still undecided on my preference.	Everyone's input has been useful, even if you may be undecided on your preferred concept.
46	I like a modified version of concept 2.	We will look at how to further incorporate the preferences of both concepts into the final design concept as much as possible.
47	I think the shape of 2.5 is better because it's more interesting.	We will look at how to further incorporate the preferences of both concepts into the final design concept as much as possible.
48	I like concept 2, with the drum circle planetarium brought closer to Takoma.	We will look at how to further incorporate the preferences of both concepts into the final design concept as much as possible.
49	In previous designs, the building along Fenton was too tall. Now it looks extremely low. The middle sticks out like a sore thumb and there is concern about the noise coming closer to the neighborhood.	Of all concepts presented to date, the tallest concept was 3 stories plus a mechanical penthouse. This scheme reduced a story and moved the mechanical penthouse toward the middle to make the building appear smaller. We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
50	How much less solar energy would you capture if you don't have solar panels on top of the building along the Fenton Ave. side?	This is something that will be calculated once we have a more finalized design concept.

51	If both concepts had mechanicals pushed back away from residences to the north, what would that look like?	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
52	What is the scale of screen wall?	The screen wall attaches to the face of the building, with minimal projection beyond that. The design of the horizontal members will continue to be refined as we develop the design.
53	Is there a possibility for the strip to not have solar panels, splitting where you have the HVAC utilities?	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
54	I think what's misleading is a lot of the pictures here (2.5) are from an aerial view. I think putting a higher bar in the middle, you're experiencing a lower height and the only thing you really see is that lower height. Setting the mechanical back even just a few feet would help better visualize this concept.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
55	I think both of these are far too massive. The more bells and whistles you put on them, the larger they become. In particular (2.5) for my backyard will be very big and I do not like that concept. Whatever you can do to break that bar up will be much appreciated.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
56	These angular pv panels are rapidly tending towards obsolescence.	PV will be studied in much more detail once we move into schematic design and have more information on products, placement and budget.
57	Are solar panels mandated in official concept of this building?	Solar panels are not mandated in the official concept of this building.
58	The height of middle bar is a negative.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
59	Can we look at the efficiency of solar tech?	PV will be studied in much more detail once we move into schematic design and have more information on products, placement, and budget.
60	The loading dock needs to be 75 ft. at least. Is it feasible for the building to be set back a little bit just where the loading dock is?	The final design for the loading dock is still being refined. This is a possibility.
61	I personally like 2.5. I think the architecture is by far the most interesting and the other is just squares and rectangles.	Thank you for your feedback.

62	I like 2.5. The planetarium is expressed as its own geometry and there's no other geometry in the neighborhood like that. It is unique.	Thank you for your feedback.
63	I'm agnostic on the planetarium.	Thank you for your feedback.
64	In 2.5, where is the green house going to go?	The green house will be embedded in a corner of the building, rather than a standalone facility. Both installation methods can meet the College's needs for the green house.
65	Where does all the water come off of the roof? Maybe think about the handling of the storm water.	This is something that will be refined once we have a final design. Storm water is a very important item to consider.
66	Make sure you can account for the water in greenhouse.	Thank you for your feedback. We will account for water in the greenhouse in the development of the design.
67	I would like to see a lot more trees, more natural screening.	Trees are very important to the site. We are doing everything we can to preserve as many as we can, and hope to be able to include more in the final design, where appropriate.
68	The horizontal screening makes the building look lower than it is.	Agreed, this is a benefit of horizontal screening.
69	What is the perspective of the building when coming to campus from the south?	Those views are noted in the presentation with the title "View from Takoma and Fenton." The full presentation can be found on the project website.
70	Please consider looking at landscape plans in the next step.	Landscape planning and considerations are a large part of the next step.
71	Is there any chance to get renderings of what the new street and traffic patterns will look like?	We can provide a diagram that shows how we think traffic will flow with the new curb cut and parking lot.
72	The stone wall is a good thing and the height of that wall should be considered.	This is something we will consider as we develop the design.
73	We should consider views from the north of campus too.	We can add this view to the 10/16 presentation.
74	The horizontal screening on Fenton makes the building look lower.	Thank you for your feedback. This is one of the goals of using that type of screening.
75	Can you split the solar and mechanical utilities on the roof instead of merging?	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
76	By building a new classroom on the first floor of concept 2, you can increase the height to better match the middle bar.	The classrooms all fit within the same 16' floor to floor height.
77	It is better for the campus that the mechanicals be shifted north or next to the railroad tracks so that it's not very noisy.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment.

78	I think the labs require a lot of mechanicals and need to be centralized. It might be possible to put mechanicals on both bars.	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment.
79	I think most people talk about the impact on Takoma Ave and not on Fenton road. I think there is a conflict between what we are saying and what others are saying.	We agree, there appear to be community members that prefer a taller mass on Fenton and others that would like to see something lower on Fenton than what was shown in Charrettes prior to 10/2.
80	Are there opportunities to lower the scale of the structure?	We hope this will be able to be achieved and will be looking to determine how best to accomplish this. We are currently planning for a 16' floor level height. As we get a better understanding of the structural system and space demands for mechanical equipment, we will then determine if we can reduce that height.
81	I would prefer a lower height over a farther set back within reason.	This preference aligns with the design decisions in continuing development of concepts 2 and 2.5.
82	How can you reduce the presence of the building in design 2?	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive in both concepts.
83	I think the equipment (mechanical) is not going to be noisy.	We have an acoustician on board to provide guidance on how best to reduce noise as much as possible.
84	Horizontal solar shading on the windows is better the vertical shading.	Thank you for your feedback.
85	Will there be a green roof in concept 2? Are green roofs more or less cost effective?	The cost needs to be studied in further detail. Typically the installation and maintenance of a green roof is more expensive, but the insulating properties can offset the cost with reduced utility bills.
86	My primary concern is the height. I think because of our previous discussions we may have lowered it too much along Fenton.	We are looking at how to balance this between what was shown on 10/2 and what had previously been shown.
87	I love the idea of a stand alone planetarium.	Thank you for your feedback.
88	I strongly urge you to use panels with 19% tilt. Many designers are waiting for the 40% tilt panels, but they may take more time and we do not want to see a delay based on materials.	This is something that will be calculated once we have a more final design concept.
89	I like concept 2.5, it breaks the building up. You can see the planetarium. if you could push the structure a little back, you might not even need the parapet.	Thank you for your feedback.

90	Is it possible to move the drop off area on Fenton more to the north? That will help you push the building towards Fenton so that you may be able to lower the building.	Moving the drop off area to the north of the site does not have a direct relationship to the building height. The biggest site constraints prohibiting moving the building toward Fenton are due to site constraints on the south side.
91	The solar panels should be towards the tracks.	The solar panel design will be refined once we have a final design concept.
92	Solar technology is changing so much, what is your idea for having the solar panels? Are they for aesthetic purpose and what will you do when it changes in five years?	Solar panels would not be used for aesthetic purposes. They would be used to offset energy consumption from other sources.
93	Does your firm do value engineering?	Yes.
94	I think that the materials used in the building design do not reflect the overall architecture of the Takoma area.	The materials presented are all from the immediate context of the Montgomery College Takoma Park Campus or components found in the neighborhood. The building must be constructed with materials that relate to the surrounding context, while also being appropriate to an institutional building. The building forms are certainly different, but we strive to have similar materials.
95	Wouldn't it be better if the highest point of the building is on the side of Fenton Street? It doesn't make much sense for it to be on the side closest to the residential area.	We are studying how to rework the massing on Fenton based on feedback from 10/2. It had previously been expressed by community members to consider Fenton as well as other sides of the building as interacting with the community.
96	Could there be a facade on Fenton Street?	Yes.
97	Are the facades used to minimize both light reflection and pollution?	Yes, this can happen. This will be studied as we refine the design further.
98	Is it possible to move the mechanicals to another part of the building and not have them on top of the facility?	The building site is too tight to have the mechanical units on the ground level. Doing so would move them into the quad or have them somewhere on the street which would be undesirable. The top of the facility is the best place to locate this equipment.
99	Instead of the pillars we currently have on these designs, is it possible to establish the green roof there to minimize the mechanicals view?	This is something that can be considered.
100	What rooms and services will the facility provide in the rotated pavilion in concept 2?	The rooms and services are identical in function in both concepts. The pavilion portion will house the planetarium and learning center.
101	What is that transparent area in the middle of both of the concepts?	The transparent area in the middle of the concepts is intended for circulation spaces.
102	Will the glass pathway be insulated in the winter?	All glass used in the building will be designed to meet current energy codes. This usually requires insulated glass.

103	Currently there is a road that passes in between Falcon Hall and Science South. What will be done with this road?	The road will likely be removed.
104	Can solar panels be used to cover up the mechanicals?	They can but it will add height and more cost to structure them to sit on top of the mechanical enclosure.
105	If the planetarium has a 55 ft. dome, it needs to have a 60 ft. base.	This will be refined as we work more on the planetarium design.
106	Is it possible to mix the facade in concept 2 but have the planetarium openness of 2.5?	The materials are more or less interchangeable between the two concepts.
107	What will the height of this building be compared to Science North?	The heights of the buildings vary due to the ground level where the measurements are taken on the different buildings. The current design is relatively similar in height where Science North and the new building meet.
108	Is it possible to lower the scale of the structure by relocating the mechanicals atop the facility?	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
109	Is it possible to use the current road on the eastern side that goes on to New York Ave. as a possible loading dock?	This road will be difficult to use as a loading dock - it would have to be expanded to allow for trucks to turn around and it would conflict with the best location to have the public building entrance.
110	Is it possible to have art above the entrance of the building?	Yes.
111	In old concepts, the building facing Fenton was too tall. Now it is extremely short and the taller portion was brought closer to residential homes. Is it possible to lower that height?	Yes. We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
112	Will there be an entrance at the southern part of the facility?	No. There is no plan for an entrance on the Takoma side of the building.
113	How many entrances are there in total?	The current design has 3 entrances for students, faculty, staff and guests, and 1 loading dock.
114	Will the new building in any way be physically connected to Science North? Similar to how Science South is to that building currently?	The current design does not allow for that to happen.
115	Is it possible for the building to have eco lights installed (lights that lower in emission when not in use)?	Thank you for your feedback. Eco lights will be considered.
116	In both designs, the roof is flat. Where will the water flow from the top of the building?	The roof will not be fully flat. The roof will pitch to drains and gutters as required by code.

117	How much of the building's energy output will be received from the solar panels?	Energy output from solar panels will be calculated once we have a more final design concept.
118	If the middle bar is a darker material, it will appear smaller.	Thank you for your feedback.
119	Glass walls do not fit well with the neighborhood aesthetic.	The idea with the glass is intended to make the mass disappear more, which is why we have located the stone/masonry wall base level with that above it. We will continue to refine the design to ensure that it responds to neighborhood and campus context.
120	Asking for clarity on the method of measurement in renderings. Specifically slide 38, the 53 ft. on Fenton side.	53' is the measured distance at the southwest corner of the center building mass from the ground to the top of the mechanical penthouse enclosure.
121	What is the height of the solar panels at current angle?	The solar panels are shown as a concept. The height is 4' above the roof currently, but this can change and potentially get lower as we refine the design.
122	Can you clarify where the loading dock is on the Fenton side?	The loading dock is located at the north end of the building, next to Science North.
123	Why do solar panels need to be on the west side? Can it be swapped with mechanical elements in the center bar?	Mechanical on the west would block sunlight to panels. Also, stylistically, the middle building being taller adds balance and breaks monotony.
124	The Planetarium still needs work; 55-60' is too small.	This is being evaluated and will be refined as we progress with one design concept.
125	Are there alternative options for mechanical equipment?	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive.
126	What is the scale in perspective renderings?	Perspectives do not have a scale but all items are proportional relative to one another. A universal scale is not applicable in this type of graphic.
127	Glare was clearly articulated as an issue by neighbors in previous meetings.	This is noted and will be a consideration moving forward.
128	What are the shading elements between the options on the Takoma side?	Currently a sunshade is shown on concept 2 and horizontal shades are shown on concept 2.5
129	How much taller will the new building be compared to the current one?	The highest point of the design shown on 10/2 is 6'-9" taller than the highest point of Falcon Hall and 10' taller than the highest point of Science South.
130	Are the array of solar panels taller than the mechanical?	Solar panels used will not be taller than the mechanical units.
131	What are the specific heights of concept 2 and 2.5?	Both buildings have the same height, which varies depending on where the measurement is taken, due to variations in terrain. Each concept has floors that are 16' each and a 14' tall penthouse. This creates a building as short as 46' in some locations and as tall as 62' in others.

132	Does it make a difference if the solar panels face Fenton?	The solar panels will be arranged in the most beneficial orientation to ensure maximum efficiency.
133	If we extend the planetarium toward Takoma Ave., could we keep the facility to a 2 story limit?	Testing of the interior so far has not been able to yield a solution where the planetarium could be shifted toward Takoma Ave. in order to keep a 2 story limit.
134	Are these drawings to scale?	The renderings are proportionally correct to one another, based on a 3d computer model that is to scale. Renderings in perspective are not scalable the way an elevation or plan drawing.
135	How high are these buildings compared to Nunley?	Nunley is 60' tall along Fenton at it's highest point. This building steps into the hillside, which creates varying heights ranging from 46'-62'. As perceived from Fenton, the building appears to be 46'.
136	What is the facade difference between both designs?	We wanted to show variation to get reactions from the community. They are both viable options.
137	Are the facades on design 2 made to reduce light reflection?	Both concepts have treatments to windows where appropriate to help mitigate excessive heat gain. These items will be refined as we move toward a final design.
138	Why are the windows darker on concept 2 compared to 2.5?	They are not intended to be. Glazing design for windows is still to be determined.
139	Is there going to be shading on the windows?	The goal is to have shading as appropriate to mitigate excessive heat gain.
140	Where will the lab venting go?	The lab exhaust will collect and be distributed through roof top exhaust fans that will dilute the exhaust prior to exiting the stack. The technology of the Strobic fume exhaust systems prevent reentrainment, eliminate odor, reduce noise, comply with architectural and aesthetic ordinances, and lower energy costs.
141	Which way will the smoke from lab ventilation go?	The lab exhaust will collect and be distributed through roof top exhaust fans that will dilute the exhaust prior to exiting the stack. The technology of the Strobic fume exhaust systems prevent reentrainment, eliminate odor, reduce noise, comply with architectural and aesthetic ordinances, and lower energy costs.
142	Why was concept 3 removed?	Concept 3 was not popular to the community due to the height. The academic group also expressed a preference for concept 2 or 2.5.
143	Would the idea of distributing the bars disappear if you move the mechanical storage atop the bar closest to the tracks?	We are studying how to rework the mechanical equipment to appear less massive while still trying to maintain distributed bars.