

**Date:** December 20, 2011

**Project Name:** William Paterson University – Academic Zone Master Plan  
**Project Number:** 46490.00  
**Subject:** User Group Interviews – Hunziker Hall and Shea Performing Arts Center

**Meeting Location:** WPU University Commons – Room 202  
**Meeting Date:** December 13, 2011

**Prepared By:** David Levo  
**Contact Information:** T. 212.353.7302 F. 212.353.7676 E. d.levo@perkinseastman.com

**Participants:** WPU

- Nina Trelisky – Registrar
- Dave Kerzner – Professor of Music
- Carol Frierson-Campbell – Chair of Music
- Imafidon Olaye – Associate Dean of Arts & Communication
- Al Schaefer – Director of Operations of Shea Performing Art Center
- Richard Stomber – Assistant VP of Administration

Perkins Eastman

- David Levo – Project Manager and Senior Planner

**Filename:** h:\studio-7\46490.00 william paterson univ mp\docs\minutes & agendas\46490 wpu\_2011-12-13 interview minutes - hunziker and shea users.docx

Business	Subject	Action By/ Date Req'd
1.1 General Comments	Positive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Student Center and Library function well.</li> <li>▪ The newer and larger buildings still seem comfortably sized inside. Interiors are more open with natural light and the ability to see what is happening.</li> <li>▪ Very happy with new plaza space in front of Shea; it is used by students for gathering and conversation.</li> <li>▪ Like tree coverage across the Academic Zone – there’s a nice variety. Also like flowering trees in front of Raubinger.</li> <li>▪ Marble stalls in Hunziker speak to a sense that the building was originally well crafted.</li> <li>▪ The “Writing Across the Curriculum” is a great resource for faculty development and community – for those that participate.</li> </ul>	n/a

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	<p>Neutral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shea's location was driven mainly by parking (though the building faces nothing in particular – not the parking lots, Hunziker Hall, Pompton Road or the open space it was originally adjacent to which is now gone).</li> <li>▪ Hunziker was originally a demonstration school when WPU was a normal (teaching) college.</li> <li>▪ Hunziker is the most heavily used building on campus for general instruction.</li> <li>▪ Student music and theater clubs meet in Hunziker classrooms.</li> <li>▪ Co-location with Visual Arts was discussed, but while there might be some synergies – it wasn't needed or pressing.</li> <li>▪ People cut through Shea from the parking lot to Morrison.</li> </ul> <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No flow between open spaces on campus (feels disjointed)</li> <li>▪ Would like the arts to be more central to the campus – physically and socially; ability for students to wander into performances and events.</li> <li>▪ There is significant sound bleed from Shea's practice rooms into the auditorium.</li> <li>▪ Not a great entry for students/faculty to Shea.</li> <li>▪ Way-finding can be difficult.</li> </ul>	
1.2 Music Comments	<p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Music Department and students are a strong community as music tends to be in most places.</li> <li>▪ Recording studios work well with small groups. Upcoming renovation will help with larger groups which are currently under-supported.</li> <li>▪ Popular music program is new and with strong growth (up to 100 majors when mature in a few years).</li> <li>▪ Sound Engineering is a stand-out program.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 50 students (which is a nice size)</li> <li>○ Difficult for students to get into program</li> <li>○ Could have more students, but constrained by facility</li> <li>○ May shift to include greater song-writing focus (which requires less space and less equipment expense)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Ramapo College's Band Shell could be a good precedent.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Neutral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Approximately 300 majors (target of 400).</li><li>▪ Would like to expand Music (B.A.), including Jazz Studies &amp; Classical Performance program.</li><li>▪ Music Education program has approximately 75 students (it is stable and won't grow much, but may get closer to 100 students).</li><li>▪ Music Management program works with the School of Business, but it consists mainly of minors.</li><li>▪ No additional FT faculty expected.</li><li>▪ 115-seats in the Shea recital hall.</li><li>▪ 922-seats in the Shea auditorium (though many are broken).</li><li>▪ Practice and rehearsal space should be located separate from faculty office space.</li><li>▪ Auditorium is used weekly for music rehearsal.</li><li>▪ There is a small opera workshop program. Would like to eventually mount one-act operas.</li><li>▪ Growth of any music program is met through adjuncts, not more full-time faculty.</li><li>▪ Would like to have more jazz artist opportunities on-campus. There are 6-week, small ensemble, on-campus residencies in the spring and fall.</li><li>▪ Programs may generally begin to de-emphasize school-based music education and focus more on community-based music arts programs.</li><li>▪ WPU is without a marching band.</li><li>▪ Montclair is a peer institution. Univ. of North Texas referenced as having built up a program from little.</li></ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Classical Studies is oriented towards large ensembles. Would like smaller ensembles, but not adequate facilities.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Concert band is 85+</li><li>○ Concert choir is 85+</li><li>○ Chamber ensemble is 3-6 (there are approximately 25 different ones)</li><li>○ There are also 8 larger ensembles of 10-15</li><li>○ This program might become more 'entrepreneurial,' incorporating business and self-starter skills; might also become more community-oriented.</li></ul></li></ul>	
	<p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ No Musical Theater program; would like to grow that in some fashion.</li><li>▪ Dedicated music spaces are physically stacked on top of each other and there is little ability to tailor/control/adjust spaces to make them more suitable to programming or acoustics.</li><li>▪ In Shea, students gather in hallway as there are few alternative lounge spaces.</li><li>▪ Faculty lounge is too small and functions inadequately.</li><li>▪ Not enough informal performance space. The auditorium could be made smaller with curtains, but it introduces both acoustical and fire code questions.</li><li>▪ Really need appropriately-sized, small ensemble rehearsal spaces, with proper acoustics.</li><li>▪ Not enough faculty offices; practice rooms have been co-opted for offices.</li><li>▪ There is a need to be able to roll instruments (such as a large drum or piano) anywhere used by music. The building located beyond Hobart is difficult in this regard (suggested by the University for additional practice rooms).</li><li>▪ Not enough storage (need storage for empty instrument boxes).</li><li>▪ Shea's practice rooms are completely inadequate (from both size/shape and fit/finish standpoints). Concerned that this will be an issue during the next accreditation period in two years. Trailers with practice rooms could be an option.</li></ul>	

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1.3 Theater Comments	<p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ University Performing Arts offices have a nice set up (located in Hunziker Hall).</li> <li>▪ Positive response to idea of a black box theater that doubles as conferencing space, embraces the outdoors, and has greater visibility/flexibility.</li> </ul> <p>Neutral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Up to 80 seats in Hunziker’s black box theater.</li> <li>▪ Most academic theater performances are in Hunziker; two to three shows per term.</li> <li>▪ The Auditorium is used once a year, generally for two weeks.</li> <li>▪ Partner with the American Comedy Institute, student shows/workshops done in New York City.</li> <li>▪ Could do more to create a community music school on the weekends (good for outreach).</li> <li>▪ Would like observation space in some practice/performance spaces.</li> <li>▪ Would like an outdoor performance activity area (i.e. amphitheater).</li> </ul> <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shea’s Auditorium needs to be staffed because it is so large.</li> <li>▪ The auditorium’s orchestra pit is not well positioned. There isn’t adequate fly space. The dimming system is poor. Not enough storage.</li> <li>▪ There are no toilets attendant to the dressing rooms for Hunziker black’s box. The black box theater used to be a multi-purpose room, stage was at a different end, glass block windows have been painted over, and ceiling lighting/power grid was put in approximately ten years ago. It is ‘found space.’</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Comments</b>	<p>This was a general interview session with user groups. The Theater Department was not academically represented. The upcoming renovation of select portions of Shea was noted at the start of the interview. No presentation was made by users or consultant. Brief tours of Hunziker’s black box theater and Shea’s auditorium immediately followed the interview.</p>	n/a

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	Associated IR&A 2011 data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 67 majors of Music (B.A.)</li><li>▪ 168 majors of Music (B.M.)</li><li>▪ Theater is not a major at WPU</li></ul>	
Next Meeting:	n/a	
Notice:	This Meeting Report is our understanding of the items as they were discussed. Please report any discrepancies to Perkins Eastman. If no discrepancies are reported in five working days, this Meeting Record will stand as published.	
cc:	All meeting attendees, Richard Stomber (WPU), Chris Albright (PE), file.	
Attachments:		