Minutes from New Biomedical Research Building Planning Meeting
Wednesday, September 22, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Classroom 114, Health Sciences Building

(1) All deans, associate deans for research and department chairs from the biomedical/health science research units were invited as well as members of BRISC I and II and interested faculty
(2) Presenters were: Harris Pastides (vice president for research and health sciences, USC); Tony Boccanfuso (director, research & economic development, USC); Lucia Pirisi-Creek (biomedical/health sciences research facilitator – USC Office of Research and Health Sciences); and Jim Schaafsma (Craig Davis Properties).
(3) Key take-away points from meeting:

- The University plans to develop three new buildings (approximately 1/2 million square feet of space) over the next 3-5 years as part of Phase II of their new research community. Phase I includes development of the new building for the Arnold School of Public Health.
- These new buildings comprise what we refer to as a "research community" (versus just a collection of research buildings) to emphasize that space would be used to serve as a conduit for sharing and stimulation of intellectual property, knowledge and ideas between researchers in both the private and public sector.
- This broad vision of this new "research community" is designed to grow west of Assembly street down to the Congaree River in a clustering concept where activity is centered around an already vibrant, attractive downtown community (stores, restaurants, businesses).
- These new buildings will include a combination of wet labs, dry labs, computing and office space depending on the needs of its occupants.
- The biomedical research/health sciences building will be one of the 3 new buildings planned and is currently being considered for location in what is being called the "health sciences cluster" (near the new Public Health building going up on Assembly St). The other two buildings will probably be located along in what is being called (for now) "the next energy block" (sometimes referred to as the Hardees Block), USC will be developing a more formal branding/imaging campaign for this overall effort in the next few months.
- The buildings will be supported through a combination of funds and sources;
    (a) Life Sciences Act – which privates a dollar for dollar match from the state (up to $70 million) for every dollar raised from the private sector to support to the 3 research universities for investments made in programs that lead to economic development. This will be used to leverage resources and attract private sector funds and is part of the Faculty Excellence Initiative

(b) Centers for Economic Excellence Program – which provides another opportunity for match funds and recruitment of key senior and junior hires through the endowed chair effort
(c) Legislative earmark funding opportunities to further support endeavors - USC has had great success in garnering funds in past years and is actively pursuing funds now
(d) Centenary Faculty Hiring Plan (recruiting 600 faculty over the next 5 years: 350 replacements; 250 new faculty (research & tuition-based)

- There are no preconceived notions of what will go in each building. The basic premise of the new research community will be shared space through clustering where activity is centered around thematic areas that include both research university and private and public tenants. For the biomedical research building, this would probably include space for cancer research, neuroscience research and a health science computing center, among other key thematic areas that will be determined by a faculty-run advisory group.
- Faculty are also encouraged to think strongly about government agencies (federal and state) such as the USDA, DHEC, NIH, DOD, NASA which might have a specific interest in a thematic area and already have close ties and working relationships with USC faculty who might be interested in co-locating into such space.
- The buildings would be supported through private investment (as described earlier). Tenants would then pay rent on space used. For research faculty, this would consist primarily of a percentage of the IDC from awards (not direct costs). The metrics, standards and schematics of how this space can be used, how to apply for it, and how rent will be established, is in the process of being developed.
- The benefit to investors and private companies and government agencies interested in co-locating to the new facilities is that they will be attracted by the research stability and environment, the close proximity to the research faculty and state-of-the-art equipment and labs, the ability to be located in a vibrant downtown community, and that they will also see a return on their investment.
- The current plan calls for a ceremonial ground-breaking in mid-November or December 2004 to kick off the overall new research community effort.
- The immediate next step for the biomedical research building development will be to form an advisory committee of faculty and administrators interested in outlining a plan for how the space can be best used, which thematic areas or programs will be housed in the new facility, and what the specific needs (space requirements, labs, lighting, etc) of those areas will be. This should also take into account how to make the space user-friendly to attract new businesses, how to encourage interactions between students, faculty and private industry when designing the space in the new building, and how to best support transportation and parking needs for both the tenants housed of the facility as well as easy

access to those visiting. Planners should also take into consideration access issues for library resources. Lucia Pirisi-Creek and Pam Weiss will be in touch with attendees soon to solicit names and recommendations for the advisory committee and to set up a series of meetings to begin the planning process.