Capitalizing on Capital Projects to Create Culture Change

Carolyn R. Newton
Provost, The College of Wooster
Two Facilities Projects that are Changing Wooster’s Culture

- APEX (2012; $1.2 mil) Advising, Planning, and Experiential Learning
- Williams Hall of Life Sciences (exp. 2018; $41 mil)
Preparation – Time for Innovation and Culture Change

APEX: ADVISING, PLANNING, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- 2008-09 Advising Task Force
- Fall, 2012 APEX Opens
- Fall, 2016 Major Renovation

WILLIAMS HALL OF LIFE SCIENCES

- Spring, 2011. Campus Master Plan
- Fall, 2011. Retreat: Future of Science Teaching and Learning
- Spring, 2012-2013. Campus Visits
- 2013. Selection of Shepherds & Steering Committee
- 2014. Selection of EYP as Architects
- Spring, 2016. Demolition and Construction Begin
- Fall, 2018. Williams Hall Opens
Discussions Prior to Project Design

- Building Relationships
- Developing Program Connections
- Designing Shared Vision for Space
The mission of APEX is to encourage students to become passionately engaged in their education and to empower them to make informed, intentional choices about academic, personal, and professional opportunities.
APEX – Year 1 Goals

- Build a new entity
- New space
- Additional staff
- Organizational structure
- Relationships
- Awareness
- Programming
Preparation – Time for Innovation and Culture Change

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Developing a Shared Vision for the Life Sciences

- Research as Pedagogy
  - Wooster’s Independent Study Program
  - Mentored Undergraduate Research
  - Course – Embedded Research
  - Collaborative and Interdisciplinary
- Importance of “Wandering Time”
- Faculty and Staff Collaboration
- Testing of Ideas – Importance of Soft-Space
Seamless Integration of Chemistry and Life Sciences Buildings

SEVERANCE HALL
(1902; 1960; 1999)

RUTH W. WILLIAMS HALL OF LIFE SCIENCE (2018)
Building Assessment

- Administered pre-demolition of Mateer and will be re-administered one year post-occupation of Williams

- Surveys on building use and quality
  - Faculty and staff
  - Students – Science and non-Science majors

- Observational study of faculty teaching in classrooms
  (Protocol for Undergraduate STEM classes; Smith et al., 2013)
  - Use of student-centered or instructor-centered pedagogy
  - Use of space
Sustaining Momentum

- Cluster of Faculty Offices in Temporary Space
  - Close Proximity Allows for Continual Engagement

- Faculty and Staff Retreat in Fall, 2017
  - Focus on Curricular and Pedagogical Possibilities
  - Planning for Collaboration in Shared Administrative Space and Stockroom
  - Continued Integration of Cultures of Severance and Williams