Online Construction Bidding and Plan Room Services

UCSF is collaborating with UCOP Procurement Services by piloting online software to streamline construction bidding/contractor qualifications. The new tool aims to reduce fragmented communications, errors, and large volumes of repetitive data entry associated with paper bidding; to provide enhanced real-time communications with bidders; and keep them informed and accountable during the project bidding phase. Participating campuses expect to see significant cost and time savings during project bidding, coupled with a reduction in bidding errors and bid protests. UCSB’s innovative use of an online plan room earlier this year has already realized generous savings. We are very optimistic about the benefits of a system that offers both online bidding and plan room functions. For more information on software systems currently in use at UC, ideas for future efficiencies, or just to share your own successes and lessons learned for others to benefit from, please contact Dylan Paul.

President Announces 20% Reduction in UC Water Consumption

On January 16th, President Napolitano announced UC’s new sustainability goal to reduce per-capita potable water consumption 20% by 2020. President Napolitano said the University must step up and contribute to the preservation of the state’s most precious resource. "The University of California has long been a leader in conservation efforts. This new 2020 goal complements the University’s Carbon Neutrality Initiative...UC is prepared to play a leadership role in response to California’s current water crisis by demonstrating water sustainability solutions to the rest of the state," she said. The goal was adopted into the University’s Sustainable Practices Policy. In September 2013, each campus and medical center submitted a Water Action Plan to achieve the 20% by 2020 goal.

Matt St. Clair

2013-23 Capital Financial Plan

The 2013-23 Capital Financial Plan (CFP) was accepted by the Regents at the November 2013 meeting of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings. The CFP can be found at:


For the first time, the CFP proposes a level of capital funding that exceeds $16 billion over the next ten years. A majority of the funding continues to be proposed using State funds (35%, or $5.8B) followed by external financing (33%, or $5.5B). The remaining funding is proposed to come from (in descending proportion order) gifts, campus funds, hospital reserves, auxiliary reserves, grants, and privatized development. The primary program categories are led by Education and General at 60% followed by 21% for medical centers, and 19% for auxiliaries. New construction makes up 56% of the value at $9.3B.

Dana Santa Cruz

Prevailing Wage Determination For UCD West Village

In August 2010, the Northern California Carpenter’s Union requested that the state Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) determine if UCD’s West Village, a large mixed-use development, was covered by California’s prevailing wage (PW) requirements.

In 2006, responding to a similar claim on the UCI East Campus Phase 1 Student Rental Apartments, the DIR upheld the non-payment of PW. Last month, the DIR issued its initial determination that the West Village development is a public work subject to the payment of PW. Pursuant to section 2 of the UC Guidelines on payment of PW, subject to certain conditions, prevailing wages are not required for privatized housing development on campus. The ground lease for the West Village development requires the University to indemnify the developer against any future obligation to pay the incremental cost of PW should it ever become payable.

UC Davis filed an administrative appeal of the West Village determination with DIR, whose initial determination in this case is largely based on features unique to West Village. If you have a pending privatized project which you believe should not be subject to payment of PW, please contact the Real Estate Services Group (RESG); the UC Guidelines on payment of PW are at:


Gordon Schanck
Effective Date of 2013 Energy Code Postponed

On December 18, the California Building Standards Commission (BSC) approved the action taken by the California Energy Commission on December 11, thereby changing the effective date of the 2013 California Energy Code from January 1 to July 1, 2014. The BSC also changed the effective date of affected energy provisions only in the 2013 CalGreen (Title 24, Part 11) to July 1. All other parts and provisions of CalGreen took effect as scheduled on January 1. This delay in the effective date of the code was requested by Director of Architecture Catherine Kniazewycz at the CEC hearing in November, because the necessary compliance software and related tools were not completed. UC’s longtime leadership as an owner in sustainable design and construction was a key factor in the success of the request.

UC projects that are submitted for code review to our campus fire marshals before July 1, 2014 may be designed to comply with the 2010 Energy Standards and UC policy of 20% better than the 2010 code, which remains in effect until July. Projects submitted for such review after July 1, 2014 will be subject to the 2013 Energy Standards and the UC policy of 20% better than the 2013 code. Please see the attached bulletin from the BSC or view it at:


DSA Fees Reduced Retroactive to June 1, 2013

On December 27, 2013 the Division of the State Architect announced that the formula used for Access Compliance filing fees on projects over $2 million has been revised (DSA Bulletin 13-05 PDF - 78 KB). DSA amended their fees from three steps to five steps, and lowered the overall percentage of fees charged on project costs over $2 million. For example, under the previous formula, DSA access compliance review fees for a school project with a cost of $200 million were $204,250. Under the revised formula, those fees are now $119,250, a decrease of $85,000 or 42%. The effective date of the adjusted filing fee is retroactive to June 1, 2013. Clients who had larger projects and paid fees based on the previous formula will receive a refund from DSA.

Catherine Kniazewycz

Graphics Requirements for Regents Design Approval Submittals

Design Services provides guidance for the content and quality of the “graphics package,” to ensure successful project design approvals from the Regents Committee on Grounds and Buildings (G&B).

As of December, 2013, the Regents receive all agenda materials solely electronically, via iPads, and assembly of multiple hardcopies is no longer required. Campuses present associated PowerPoint slide shows to G&B to inform the committee’s decision. G&B preferences have changed over time; the current members prefer brief presentations of 12 slides or less. Consequently, the images in the presentation must be carefully selected for content and impact. Text-only slides are strongly discouraged—the written Regents Item should provide necessary textual information such as ASF/GSF, program summaries, etc.

General guidelines:

- Number slides sequentially
- Include a title slide, ideally with graphics, such as a rendering or site plan
- Include a campus location plan and a site plan; provide north arrows
- Include selected elevations at an adequate scale to depict the facade design
- Include limited site context photographs, as and if needed to explain the design
- Have color renderings in perspective that depict a lively, populated environment
- Limit number of floor plans—first floor plan integrated with the site plan may suffice
- Include exterior materials information such as samples, keyed to colored elevations
- Provide a sustainability slide (text-only ok)
- If a concluding slide is desired, use an image, not “End,” “Discussion,” “Questions,” or repeating project name

Please note the graphics submittal to CRM is due three days prior to the campus’ scheduled design presentation to UCOP. The submittal should be in final format—complete and edited to twelve slides or less in length. This will enable effective review of the graphics package, so the design presentation meeting can be most productive. Further guidance can be found at:


Catherine Kniazewycz

For corrections, updates or future contributions please contact: MICHAEL.LINDER@UCOP.EDU