



MEETING NOTES

Meeting Location:	Virtual	Project:	Design Review Board – February 2026
Date/Time:	2/17/26 – 9:00 am	Re:	DRB Meeting Notes – <i>revised 3/17/26</i>
Notes By:	Janine Glaeser, UW-Madison FP&M, CPLA	File:	P:\SHARE\Design Review Board\2026 MEETINGS\02-17-26 MTG\

Agenda (In Person):

- 1. WIMR East Wedge Cyclotron & Expansion #1485-2343**
Design Development Review – DRB #3 Introduction to Design Updates
-

Committee Attendees:

Heidi Natura
Mary Czyszczak-Lyne
Kevin Firchow
Rafeeq Asad
Al Oberlander
Tonia Pittman – excused absence
Ex Officio: Scott Utter
Ex Officio: Peter Schlecht
Staff: Janine Glaeser

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Schlecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Roll call confirmed quorum.

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

December 16th DRB Meeting Notes were approved.
- Czyszczak-Lyne motioned to approve; Natura seconded motion

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

- None

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Utter read the Land Acknowledgement

Agenda Item #1: Design Review – DRB #4 Final Approval Requested**Project Name: WIMR East Wedge Cyclotron & Expansion #1485-2343****Attendees:**

- Scott Kammer, AE Potter Lawson
- Mark Wells, UW SMPH
- Matt Efflandt, UW FP&M PM
- Gabe Mendez, UW FP&M Transportation
- Troy Green, UW FP&M PM
- Paula Veltum, UW FP&M Physical Plant
- Lori Wilson, UW FP&M Communications
- Aaron Williams, UW CPLA FP&M
- Jonathan Bronk, UW CPLA FP&M
- Van Van Wyk II, UW CPD FP&M
- Sadie Derouin, UW FP&M Sustainability

Project Description: Located within the “Health Sciences Neighborhood”, the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (WIMR) project proposes to construct a 14,451 two story addition for the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). The “East Wedge” addition will be located between the WIMR I and WIMR II towers and include a lower level 30MeV Cyclotron with first level laboratory & office spaces. The DRB last reviewed this project on 12/16/25 and JCAC recommended this to DRB on 1/22/26.

DRB Review & History - Anticipated:

- DRB #1 Info 8/20/24
- JCAC Info 9/26/24
- DRB #2 10/15/24
- DRB#3 Update 12/16/25
- JCAC Recommend 1/22/26
- DRB #4 Approval 2/17/26

Project Schedule:

- Bid Date 8/2026
- Start Construction 11/2026
- Substantial Completion 4/2028
- Occupancy 5/2028

DRB comments:

- Asad:
 - Confirmed the project’s return schedule.
 - Commented that the design looks improved and materials are appropriate.
 - Noted it is a strong infill project.
 - Appreciated inclusion of the upper-level elements and green roof components.
- Czyszczak-Lyne:
 - Asked about construction traffic patterns and neighborhood impacts.

- **Design team response:** Traffic along the eastbound utility crossing will remain open with two-way flow, though tight at times. This phase is expected to last 1–3 weeks. Highland Avenue will be used for most construction access.
 - Emphasized need for proactive messaging to Highland Avenue area residents.
 - Noted underpass bridge clearance concerns, the need for clear visitor signage, and patience messaging. Suggested coordinating with MMSD regarding message boards on University Avenue.
 - Recommended outreach to the Village of Shorewood Hills.
 - **Design team:** Shorewood Hills has reviewed the plans through its Plan Commission and Common Council; one more approval is anticipated.
 - Inquired about proposed tree species; dogwoods with yellow bark were mentioned.
 - **Design team:** Raised planters are not finalized; dogwoods could be suitable.
 - Asked whether any animals occupy the adjacent laboratory spaces.
 - **Design team:** None in this area; the west tower does include animal spaces, and considerations will be made during construction.
 - Requested attention to air handling impacts on existing building occupants during the construction period.
- Natura:
 - No additional comments; noted the project has evolved well.
- Firchow:
 - Appreciated the project’s evolution and the roof circulation plan.
 - Asked whether the louver frame materials will match surrounding window frame on the west wedge infill wing.
 - **Design team:** Yes—frames will match the lighter metal panel system, with only dimensional differences.
- Oberlander:
 - Noted slide inconsistencies in louver color representation; team clarified existing tower louvers should be referenced.
 - Observed two metal colors appearing on the façade due to plane changes and precast conditions.
 - Expressed no need to return to the “new wedge” concept.
 - Noted concern about the vertical orientation of new louver infill panels compared to the horizontal framing on the west wedge.
 - **Design team:** Current patterning aligns with metal panels on the east façade; horizontal options may be explored though dimensional constraints exist.
 - Observed differences between existing louvers (fine, close spacing) and the new proposed configuration.
 - Commented on mullion projections—vertical mullions extend more prominently than horizontal ones.
 - **Design team:** Intent is to match existing vertical fin expression.
 - Asked about the white roof area.
 - **Design team:** Structural limitations prevent some green roof installation; options include sedum or lightweight ballast.

- Overall support for direction of roof plan and wedge-shaped planters; suggested more edge seating.
- Utter (Ex Officio):
 - Asked for clarification on stone materials.
 - **Design team:** Casota stone is used at the base; lighter precast above.
 - Asked for clarification on metal colors.
 - **Design team:** Three finishes—almond-colored louvers, metal panel system, and clear anodized window framing.
- Schlecht (Chair):
 - Emphasized maintaining natural daylight access.
 - Noted the upper roof terrace feels visually unwelcoming; asked how pedestrian access will be deterred or managed.
 - **Design team:** Edging and ballast zones are being studied; people will not be prohibited from walking there but design will discourage casual access.
 - Noted reluctance to use green roof in certain areas; team is studying patterns of ballast or potential pavers depending on structural review.
 - Asked about skylight opportunities.
 - **Design team:** Existing tower skylight alignment will be maintained; Solatubes will be added in hallways where feasible.
 - Asked whether equipment changes could affect façade elements; requested that major changes return to DRB.
- Czyszczak-Lyne:
 - Asked about roof furniture.
 - **Design team:** Will coordinate with Campus Planning; not yet specified.
- Schlecht (Chair):
 - Affirmed that furniture and related elements should be coordinated with Campus Planning.

Motion:

- **Czyszczak-Lyne move that we approve with the request that campus staff review details noted by DRB.**
- **Asad – seconded motion.**
- **Discussion on motion.**
- **All in favor – motion carries**

Public Comments from the chat:

- There's no intention of using the village for access during construction.
- Stakeholder meetings will be held by the project and Transportation Services.
- Transportation Services is leading the traffic control planning and site effect.

March 17, 2026 is the next DRB meeting.

These notes are what the writer understands of the proceedings. Please contact or email any changes to the writer within 5 working days if not in concurrence. End of meeting notes.