

To: Diane Williamson, Director of Community Development, Town of Bristol, RI
From: John Amitrano, AVP for Facilities and Capital Projects, Roger Williams University
Date: 7/30/25
Subject: Roger Williams University Master Plan and Campus Update, Summer '25

Introduction

Roger Williams University (RWU) is moving forward with several projects this summer. Per our Campus Master Plan submitted in February of 2023 we are continuing with Academic Renewal and beginning the design process for our proposed Campus Center. In other areas several small CAPEX projects are in progress related to campus infrastructure, classroom improvements, access control, and dining.

Campus Center

RWU has engaged the Architectural firm Architectura in the programming and design of our proposed Campus Center. The project is just entering the Design Development phase with Construction Documents projected for a December '25 delivery. The proposed building will be constructed on the current location of the mail room. It will be 4 stories with the ground level split between parking and program. At ~ 85,000 square feet the structure will house Admissions, Student Programs Leadership & Orientation (SPLO), the radio station, e-gaming, retail, a café, and Student Clubs and Organizations. With multiple event spaces leveraging views of Mount Hope Bay the Campus Center will be the focal point for RWU's student and community engagement.

Academic Renewal

Brewster Thornton Group Architects has worked with RWU to develop a multiphase renovation of the old SECCM Engineering Building. This year phase 3 is underway with the addition of an Instrument room to support Forensics and Environmental Sciences as well as two 30-seat modern classrooms that can be combined into one large one by a folding teaching wall. As part of this phase the fire sprinkler system will continue to be expanded and classroom 124 is being infilled to accommodate the proposed phase 4 Cyber Lab and Vivarium.

The Center for Environmental and Economic Development (CEED) in MNS has been awarded a grant which will be used in part to fund a Histology Mobile Classroom for the study fish tissues. This 900 square foot trailer will be placed between the parking structure and the Arts Annex on North Campus. Expected completion is December 2025.

Classroom improvements will focus on the MNS Building where two Biology labs are being renovated with new cabinetry, technology, and furnishings. This work will make these existing spaces better suited to modern teaching methods, more accessible and inviting to students.

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Student Life

RWU has partnered with BKP Architects on a new layout design for our Upper Commons Dining Room. This project is focused on improved work and traffic flow, modernized cabinetry and finishes, as well as the addition of a "You Cook It" area where students can prepare their own meals and cooking demonstration events can be held. Project will be completed in time for opening in August 2025.

Small CAPEX Projects

RWU is working with Integrated Security, converting our access control system from HID Safe to C-Cure. This project will improve both system and user security through improved hardware and software ensuring campus cyber security as well as better access control through a mobile credentialing allowing for instantaneous updates to a registered users status. Project will be completed in time for opening in August 2025.

Campus Infrastructure

Working with Fuss & O'Neil, RWU has purchased 3 new transformers which is the beginning completion of a multiyear multi-phase campus power upgrade where we are moving from 4.8 kV to 12 kV. The main trunks were completed in 2016, but the project was paused. This purchase is the first of several where ultimately 14 transformers will be purchased then in phases associated sets of wire and switch gear will be installed creating a more resilient infrastructure for future campus moves toward electrification.

Summary

We are looking forward to working with the Town of Bristol in the execution of these projects. I will be reaching out soon to schedule an initial meeting with the Town, our Architect and Site/Civil Engineering team to review the permitting and regulatory requirements relative to the Campus Centers construction. Thank you for being great partners.

John Amitrano

CC: Gloria M. Arcia, Ed.D.

Brian G. Williams, DM