



UW-Eau Claire Charrette Process

What's a Charrette?

Charrettes have been used by architects and planners to engage large groups in collaboratively developing designs. UWEC's charrettes were structured to harness the ideas and energies of many individuals to create and support a realistic plan for our university.

At the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire we used a large meeting room to provide opportunities for faculty, staff, students and friends to learn more about our planning ideas and to comment directly about them. We divided the room into two sections—in the first, large posters listed all proposed ideas from each of our planning work groups. Tables nearby were staffed by members of the planning groups to facilitate discussion about the ideas with anyone who had questions or wanted to discuss them in more detail.

In the second section, rows of tables held large flip-chart pages. At the top of each was one of the proposed ideas. People were invited to comment on the idea—and often responded to the other comments as well. Individuals were asked to write about:

- Ideas you like and will support
- New ideas you want to add
- Suggestions for potential collaborators or resources
- Critical factors to keep in mind
- Concerns or suggestions

Charrettes were held for three consecutive days for the campus community and at a special meeting of the Senate. People had the option to comment anonymously and also to use an online version. More than 900 comments were received.

