The new Design Center project, to be open in late 2018, is based around undergraduate students using design-thinking and design-doing to address problems and opportunities for people-centered innovation, working both within and outside the curriculum, to extend the land grant mission of our campus into the 21st century. The Center will have facilities for instruction, observation and immersion to identify opportunities for design, for ideation and collaboration, for prototyping to test ideas, and for communication to a variety of audiences, on- and off-campus.

It is intended to be an iconic building, a catalyst for collaboration and innovation, and to act as both a hub and a connector for existing facilities across the campus in many departments and centers. In keeping with the mission to explore the educational paradigm of design learning, it will also be an exemplar for construction, building design and operation.

It is currently projected that any academic programming in the Center would be based on developing design thinking and design learning through project based team activities, with single, multi- or inter- disciplinary teams, rather than traditional classroom based learning.

What courses do you currently have which might qualify for location in the Center, and how many students do those courses involve?

What new courses might you design which capitalize on this facility, and how many students might those involve?

In addition to spaces for team working, what other facilities might those courses require?
What kind of making facilities (of all kinds) might be required as part of those activities? What do you envisage as the largest and heaviest objects which might be constructed by student teams?

What facilities do you currently have which might form part of a larger University network linked with the Design Center?

We do not envision providing faculty offices or space for other research projects, or few conventional classrooms, and any blossoming student enterprises would be moved into other innovation support spaces around campus. Outside the space for student groups and teams participating in design thinking and making, what other spaces do you feel should be provided in the Center?

What additional thoughts do you have about this exciting development?