

## **Design Solutions**

The design will introduce new finishes and furnishings that complement the character of the Library Atrium renovation, which was completed in 2006, while also addressing the unique function of the Central Commons. A new 12-foot wide by 60-foot clear-span elevated walkway will be constructed to complete the east-west hallway.

### **Student Commons design**

The proposed Student Commons design will be divided into smaller seating and gathering areas, and also alternating seating styles, including using a combination of traditional cafeteria seating areas, modular booth soft seating and modular lounge soft seating. This design approach divides the large expanse of the Student Commons into smaller, more welcoming student spaces for dining, socializing and studying.

The diversity in seating styles will encourage the students to utilize this space more than it is currently used, while presenting a warmer and more up-to-date environment appealing to new and potential students. This design approach helps promote community by encouraging student commons use, student interaction and to encourage students to use and take pride in their space for learning and meeting with their peers.

### **Multi-use space**

Since the Student Commons is a multi-use space for the college, it was important to provide flexibility and movable components. In most cases the seating can be moved and stored for assembly or trade show style use of the Student Commons. Built components are limited to the low bay areas and the designated centralized vending and condiments area.

### **Sound absorption**

By using a combination of soft seating, sound absorption will also be increased, which lessens the amount of sound bouncing off the hard surfaces, and improving the acoustics of the Student Commons making this a much more inviting and functional space.

### **Modular and booth seating**

Most of the modular lounge and booth seating are located on built-in partition walls or adjacent to columns that can provide power for easy access for electronic devices and learning tools—important to today's students.

## **Vending and condiments**

The proposed centralized vending and condiment area layout will propose partial height walls, approximately 8 feet, that would provide power and screening. The curved gypsum ceiling will be covered in a sheet metal to emulate the ceiling features and relate to the existing Library Atrium. Having the vending centralized would allow students to make their vending purchases in one main location while creating a visually stimulating modern pergola. Adding walls will conceal and help the vending area to be more orderly, which can often be an eyesore. Included will be built-ins for microwaves, counters and concealed recycling and garbage receptacles.

## **Furniture components**

A mostly monochromatic, modern palette has been proposed with the incorporation of “pops of color” in the modular soft furniture components to not only tie in with the existing Library Atrium, but to uphold a clean-line, technological look. The modular soft furniture will exhibit a bit of color to be inviting and to showcase this space, emphasizing that students are not only welcome, but important.

## **Student Commons lounge area and hallway flooring**

This is proposed as an advanced textile composition flooring product called, Kinetex—it has long-wear and stain resistance properties of hard-surfaces but it looks like carpet. It is a textile that will aid with acoustics and has easy-on joints, anti-fatigue properties. The hallway pattern is shown in a linear orientation to encourage flow, while the lounges are shown with a herringbone pattern to visually draw students in to the lounges. This lively pattern is also to encourage students to “hang out” as opposed to lighter, less patterned interior spaces that are proposed for more quiet learning spaces.

## **Student Commons dining area flooring**

This is a combination of two vinyl flooring tile products (LVTs) that will provide an easily cleanable finish. The dark tile has light reflecting linear striations that will help hide wear and scratches that may occur with time. This vinyl tile system is proposed to have a foam pad underlayment system to aid in leveling the floor, which will be helpful with the multiple existing floor finishes. This foam also will also help the acoustics in this space. This LVT is proposed for aesthetics, but also as a way of visually denoting where circulation and where seating is utilized.

## Ceiling

The ceiling is proposed as a combination of suspended, curved metal system with acoustical perforations and an acoustic pillow in each panel to additionally aid acoustics, and 2' x 2' acoustical panel ceiling clouds.

