

Minutes
Council on the Built Environment
February 16, 2005

Attending: Jim Calvin, Carol Cantrell (for Bennett), Russell Cross, Rick Floyd, Shelly Janac, Clint Magill, James Massey, David Parrott, Bill Perry, Tom Regan, Nancy Sawtelle, Charles Sippial, Max Summers, Dick Williams, and Joel Wixson.

Guests: Elsa Murano and Wayne Williams

Perry opened the meeting and introduced Dean Elsa Murano from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who presented the College's revised projection of space needs to support its Faculty Reinvestment Plan. Copies of the slides used for Murano's presentation were distributed. In addition to the slides, Murano distributed a spreadsheet correlating space needed and space identified for new faculty hires during Phase 1 and during Phase 2 of the Faculty Reinvestment Plan. Perry thanked Murano for her well articulated plan and asked that representatives of the College meet with the SWAT group the next day to discuss details. Murano and Wayne Williams departed.

Perry distributed a handout summarizing the emails received in response to the bulk email announcing the proposed Phase 2 Plan that was sent to more than 50,000 faculty, staff and students in Brazos County. As of February 16, twelve responses had been received. Seven were from faculty or staff members and five were from students. There were no common themes expressed in the responses. He also called attention to a copy of the ad that the CBE placed in *The Battalion* to alert students to the draft proposal.

Sawtelle reviewed the remainder of the communication plan that the CBE is using to alert the campus community to the proposed plan as well as the various opportunities provided for feedback. She explained that the next steps in the plan will concern notices about the Open Forum scheduled for Wednesday, February 23. There will be a second bulk email to all faculty, staff and students in Brazos County, a second ad in *The Battalion*, signs posted in the University Center, Aggie Hotline announcements, and a Distribution A email.

Wixson noted that the students have concerns about converting Leggett Hall to office space and they plan to express their concerns at the Forum next week.

Perry left the meeting at this point to travel to Austin for a meeting with legislators. Floyd presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Sippial presented plans and a cost estimate for fencing along University Drive in front of the University Apartments. The purpose of the fencing would be to channel pedestrian traffic to controlled crosswalks near the intersection of University and South College. The residents of the University Apartments identified the need for safe crossing areas in conversations with President Gates. In response to a request from the President, Sippial entered into discussions with TX DoT and a traffic consultant who were asked to identify strategies for enhancing the safety of pedestrian crossings in the area. The plan for fencing is the result of those discussions. Sippial

explained that in a previously initiated action the University is working with the City of College Station and TX Dot to redesign the intersection of University and South College.

Calvin asked if the proposed fence project was integrated with the master plan that Student Affairs is developing for the University Apartments complex. Sippial and Parrott responded that it was not.

Several CBE members expressed concern that all three efforts need to be coordinated. Parrott said that he would report on the status of the Student Affairs master planning effort at the CBE meeting on February 23. Sippial said that he would ask the University's Safety Officer to join in the planning effort. Summers recommended that the CBE consider the timetable for each of the efforts and determine the best way to ensure that the pedestrian crossings in this area are safe. Further discussion was postponed until information about the Student Affairs master plan and the timetables for the Student Affairs master plan and the TX DoT/City of College Station plans are available.

Floyd informed the CBE about emerging ideas that could provide space to support Phase 2. He specifically mentioned alternate uses for the MSC Hotel, the Cain Hall dining facility, and the 11th floor of Rudder Tower. He encouraged CBE members to "think out of the box" and look at other possible locations that could provide space in the academic corridor to support Faculty Reinvestment needs.

Sippial urged the Council to be aware and to be focused on the long-term use of space and planning. Regan agreed and noted the need to have a planner to oversee the implementation of the Master Plan. Summers suggested that the CBE recommend to the President that the University should hire a campus architect/planner as soon as possible.

CBE members were reminded of the Open Forum on Phase 2, which is scheduled to follow a short CBE meeting next week on Wednesday, February 23.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.