

Minutes
Council on Built Environment
November 2, 2005

Voting members attending: Kem Bennett, Russell Cross, Rick Floyd, Clint Magill, David Parrott, Bill Perry, Chuck Sippial, Max Summers, and Joel Wixson.

Non-voting members attending: Jim Calvin, Bruce Edwards, Lallah Howard, James Massey, Chris Meyer, Raye Milburn, Nancy Sawtelle and Dick Williams.

Guests: Fuller Bazer, Melanie Ihrig, Dan Kennedy, Harold Strong, Barry Nelson and Steve Moore.

Texas Institute for Genomic Medicine (TIGM) 1 Building

Bazer presented a handout on the proposed TIGM building. The building will be a 40,000 gross square foot single story facility, design-build. Estimated design and construction time is 13 months and the estimated cost is \$12,536,359, with \$12 million from TIGM and \$1 million from the Vice President for Research.

The proposed location is within current Research Park boundaries, west of the Large Animal Clinic portion of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. This site is also near the site for the potential BSL4 facility. The College of Veterinary Medicine supports the placement of TIGM at this location as does the Research Park.

Bazer noted that the cost estimate includes a utility pack, which would serve the building until it can be connected to permanent utilities. Sippial added that the extension of campus utilities to the building would be paid by TIGM funding.

Sippial moved and Cross seconded to approve the building in concept, with siting of the facility to be determined at a later date by recommendations from Sippial, Strong and Bazer. All Council members were in favor of the motion.

LARR Facility Expansion

Ihrig stated the original funding for the facility was to be \$10 million—\$4 million from the Life Sciences funds, \$4 million from an NIH grant, and \$2 million from the HSC. However, since the NIH grant was not received, the HSC funding was reduced proportionately so the LARR Facility currently has \$5 million for expansion. The facility is being modified from the original plan and will not include a mouse barrier since that activity can be housed in TIGM. The current expansion plans call for ABSL3 space, cage wash and storage areas.

Discussion of Space for Vice President for Communications

Steve Moore stated University Relations is currently located on the second and third floors of Bizzell Hall and the Vice President for Communications is located on the 10th floor Rudder. He would like to consolidate the two areas to (1) create an open, flexible work space where the main marketing duties of the campus are in full view; (2) group all the current internal constituents to this process in one physical location; and (3) develop an improved model and flow for the Visitor's Center, preferably in conjunction with this project.

In addition to the open space, four offices will be needed for administrative positions, as well as a conference room. Some options considered were Bizzell Hall, YMCA Building and Cain Hall, however each has its own reasons for not being ideal for University Relations' needs. One viable option may be the Rudder Exhibit Hall but Moore asked the Council for their thoughts and recommendations.

Since the Exhibit Hall is used frequently for receptions, the Council suggested the second floor of Rudder or the first floor of Koldus, where the two large meeting rooms are located. Conversion of the Koldus rooms to office space would decrease student meeting space, but it was noted if the MSC guest rooms are converted to meeting space, that would provide some relief to the students.

Classroom Utilization

Chuck Rhea updated the Council on current classroom utilization. The Coordinating Board standard for classroom usage is 38 hours a week and in fall 2005, TAMU improved to 34 hours a week. For class labs, the standard is 25 hours per week, and the University is now meeting that standard. Rhea noted that A&M was ranked 23 out of 38 schools in classroom usage but improving to 34 hours a week places the University in the top half.

It costs about \$32,000 to upgrade a room with current computer technology. However, if a department is willing to pay \$10,000 of that cost, CIS will pay the remainder of the cost and maintain the equipment. Although the room will still be controlled by the Registrar, the department will have first option for use.

Facilities Coordination is working on software capability to allow the Registrar and departments to know the classroom availability in real time.

Bennett suggested this presentation be shared with the Deans at an upcoming Council of Deans meeting.

Policy on Signage

Sippial volunteered to chair a subcommittee to make a recommendation on a signage policy and asked Bruce Edwards to serve also. Floyd suggested Steve Moore and Mike Huddleston be included in the discussions.

Possible Moves to Cain

Perry asked that the topic be deferred to the next meeting because he and Mark Weichold have not had a chance to discuss suggestions from last week's meeting.

Student Services Corridor

Parrott distributed a chart listing specific offices which are currently in the Student Services Corridor and fit the definition of student services, office currently in the corridor which do not necessarily fit the definition, and offices that are not in the corridor but do fit the definition. Parrott pointed out that there is no desire to remove any unit currently in the corridor that does not fit the description, but rather as space becomes available, or site locations for new construction are considered, to give these student services units primary consideration for relocation.

Shower Facilities in New Buildings

Perry shared information he has received from a faculty member suggesting that new buildings have shower facilities to encourage bicyclists to bicycle to work. Council members expressed concerns with having unsupervised shower facilities, the risk of safety and security, and the upkeep of the facilities. It was noted that G. Rollie White has shower facilities. Perry asked Magill to check on hours of availability of the showers at G. Rollie White and the availability of bicycle racks. Once Perry receives this information, he will respond to the faculty member.

Update on Board of Regents Presentation

Perry said that President Gates' presentation to the Board of Regents went well.