

**Minutes  
Council on the Built Environment  
Texas A&M University  
April 19, 2006**

Voting Members Attending: Kem Bennett, Ralph Davila for Russell Cross, Bobby Bisor, Clint Magill, David Parrott, Bill Perry, Chuck Sippial, Max Summers and Joel Wixson.

Non-Voting Members attending: Jim Calvin, Shelly Janac, James Massey, Raye Milburn, Mary Miller, Joe Powell, Nancy Sawtelle, and Dick Williams.

Guests: Dean Endler, Wally Groff, and Tim Donathen.

Basketball Locker Room Project

Due to the need for improved facilities to help recruit basketball players, Groff presented artist renderings of a south side addition to Reed Arena. The two level facility, with one floor underground, would house practice gymnasias for the men's and women's basketball teams as well as showers, lockers and training rooms. The ground level floor would house lounge areas and basketball coaches' offices, which would free up six coaches offices in Koldus. The facility would necessitate the removal of 40 to 50 parking spaces at Reed Arena. Groff stated Reed Arena administration is comfortable with the concept.

The project is estimated to be \$15 million, and \$4 million has been identified from the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation capital campaign.

Sippial moved and Summers seconded to approve in concept an addition to the south side of Reed Arena for use by the men's and women's basketball program, and that Athletics work with Bisor and the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation on clarification of funding for the project. All members were in favor of the motion, with none abstaining.

Athletics would like to present the project at the May Board of Regents meeting. Donathen said there is already a placeholder for the project but it could be pulled, if needed, if all the recommendations and approvals have not been received. Sippial reminded Groff the project would need to go through the regular process of CFPC review, recommendation of the project by CBE to the President and his final approval. The Academic Program Council should also be informed about the project at its April meeting.

West Campus Bookstore

Barnes and Noble has a contract with the University to provide bookstore services in the MSC and during peak buy-back periods, operates a temporary facility on west campus. In 2004, the University issued an RFP for a contractor to operate a bookstore on west campus, and Barnes and Noble was selected as the vendor, committing \$3.5 million for the design, construction and furnishing of the facility. The University must inform Barnes and Noble by the end of the calendar year of its intent to proceed with the facility.

Endler stated that the concept of a west campus bookstore was shared with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Student Body President, Graduate Student Body President, and leaders of student organizations, as well as west campus deans, and all were supportive of a second bookstore facility. Parrott suggested that future talks with interested parties include student affairs representatives involved in the MSC Master Plan process, so the two areas are working in harmony to provide student services.

The current minimum financial guarantee from Barnes and Noble to the University is \$1.5 million annually, and would be increased to \$1.7 million annually should a west campus bookstore come to fruition. The funding from Barnes and Noble is fully committed with funding going to Recreational Sports, University Arts, and Study Abroad. Endler said a separate \$100,000 a year is given by Barnes and Noble for unrestricted scholarships.

Barnes and Noble has identified six potential sites on west campus, with some being more preferable than others due to their closer proximity to the current bookstore.

Bisor said the size of the facility has not been determined and will be driven by the \$3.5 million funding. Barnes and Noble also pays the University a commission on its sales plus 1.8% to cover utility costs, although Williams noted that with rising fuel costs, that percentage does not fully cover utilities. Bisor stated he would meet with interested groups (student leaders, faculty, deans, etc.) to get their input on the potential sites and the programming of the facility. Anyone from CBE and the Design Review Board would be welcome to attend.

Wixson moved and Magill seconded to approve the project in concept, with Bisor getting input from the groups mentioned earlier. All were in favor of the motion, with none abstaining.

#### Law/Puryear Plaza

As part of the proposed Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building corridor, the Law/Puryear marker may need to be relocated. Sasse provided a history of the halls and the commemorative plaza. Law and Puryear were constructed in 1918 and razed in 1995. Law was named after a 1895 graduate who served as a chair of the Board of Directors and twice as President of The Association of Former Students. Puryear was named after a former mathematics head, who served as acting president for two years and as A&M's first dean.

The plaza concept was developed in 1995 by a committee of former residents of Law and Puryear halls, and members of the Old Main Society, Residence Hall Association, Student Affairs and Residence Life, and was designed as a tribute to the traditions that the halls represented. The plaza design was approved by the Board of Regents in 1996 at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Construction was funded by the Department of Residence Life with an agreement to recover the cost over time via an established Texas A&M Foundation fundraising initiative. To date, former student contributions from the sale of bricks, ramp markers, benches, and trees has resulted in recovery of just less than one half the cost of construction. The original cornerstones from the buildings are part of the plaza design.

Sippial asked Calvin to take the lead in working with Student Affairs and other groups to discuss the possible relocation. Calvin noted that there is probably an expectation that any relocation costs would come from Life Sciences funds.

Sasse stated he would like to see the marker preserved in some form and would be willing to contact the donors to inform them of any changes made to the plaza.