

**Minutes  
Council on the Built Environment  
Texas A&M University  
May 10, 2006**

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

Non-Voting Members attending: Shelly Janac, James Massey, Chris Meyer, Clay Hanks for Raye Milburn, Joe Powell, Nancy Sawtelle, and Dick Williams.

Guests: Nick Taunton, Tom Reber and Tim Donathen.

Due to Perry giving testimony before Legislative committees at the Capitol, Sippial chaired the meeting.

NMR Facility

Davila stated Agriculture is willing to fund an additional \$1.4 million for the NMR facility to allow the shell out of 2 floors of lab space, and the finish out of the first floor lab space, if the University can loan Agriculture the funds. If so, Agriculture would pay back the University \$280,000 a year over a five year period. Bisor will try to identify funds for the Agriculture Program to borrow. Agriculture's agreement also requests that the University fund the finish out of all space on the second floor at a later date and that Agriculture have space inventory control over the facility, including the future shelled out lab space.

Summers moved and Magill seconded to approve the increased scope for the NMR facility, if funds can be identified to loan Agriculture. Since the scope is changing by at least 10%, approval will have to be granted by the Board of Regents, with the earliest review at the July Board meeting. The addition of the lab space on the first floor will necessitate increasing the footprint of the building.

All members were in favor of the motion, with none abstaining. The consensus was that the project does not need to go back to CFPC for approval, however FP&C will inform the University of any technical issues that may arise because of the change.

Recommendations from CFPC

- CBE previously approved in concept an addition to the Children's Center to be used as an activity center for the children as well as a meeting place for Center staff and parents. CFPC has reviewed the project and recommends approval. All CBE members were in favor of the addition.
- CFPC has reviewed the proposed addition to Reed Arena for use by the men's and women's basketball teams and finds no technical issues. The Council was reminded that President Gates has approved the variance to the Campus Master Plan for the footprint of the addition. All CBE members were in favor of CFPC's recommendation.

## Facilities Inventory Discussion

Last week Massey attended a Coordinating Board meeting, which included representatives from many state institutions of higher education, to discuss the Board's initiation of a review of existing standards of facilities inventory and related issues, such as space projection models and classroom and teaching lab utilization. The review would assure that the current standards are accurate, are a fair representation of the planning and operation of the institutions, and that the regulations are being applied fairly.

## Other Business

- Wixson introduced Nick Taunton, student body president, who will be attending CBE meetings this summer while Wixson is working in Austin.
- Magill said he had heard that trees would need to be removed during the upgrade of Ross Streets. Sippial stated that there are two Ross Street projects occurring this summer—utilities upgrade and street repair. The utilities upgrade will necessitate digging up lines in the grassy areas in front of Reed McDonald and Halbouty buildings. The contractors will protect the trees as much as possible and none are planned for removal. *(Note: On May 16, Sippial learned that some trees may need to be removed. A representative from FP&C will attend a future CBE meeting to discuss this issue.)*