

**Minutes
Council on the Built Environment
Texas A&M University
September 6, 2006**

Voting members attending: Kem Bennett, Bobby Bisor, Joe Dillard for Dick Chilcoat, Russell Cross, Clint Magill, Tom Reber for David Parrott, Bill Perry, Chuck Sippial, Max Summers and Joel Wixson.

Non-voting members attending: Jim Calvin, Steve Hodge, Shelly Janac, James Massey, Chris Meyer, Raye Milburn, Joe Powell, Nancy Sawtelle, Tom Regan and Dick Williams.

Guests: Rodney Bowersox, James Rainer, John Salsman, Deena Wallace, Becky Carr, and Gali Zilbershtein.

Alternative Site of Wind Tunnel Facility

Bowersox noted that the Council approved a site near Easterwood Airport for a facility to house an unsteady wind tunnel and an icing physics flow laboratory. However, Aerospace Engineering has now learned that the HTRI building, which is owned by TEES but leased to HRTI, will be vacated in January, 2007, and this site is preferable. Although the HTRI building is not tall enough for the tunnel and laboratory, a concrete pad adjacent to the building is large enough to use as the foundation for the new building, and would allow Aerospace to save about 25% in construction costs. The proposed site is still close to the Low Speed Wind Tunnel and the two facilities would be able to share resources. All funding for the facility will come from TEES.

Cross moved and Sippial seconded to approve the site. All members were in favor of the motion.

Fire and Life Safety Improvement Program

Rainer gave an update on the University's fire and life safety program. Several major fire safety/fire sprinkler projects have been completed, including Rudder Tower, Eller, and Harrington Tower. Current fire safety projects include Harrington classroom, Central Utility Plant and MSC/Rudder Theater Complex.

The next four projects to be completed are Zachry, Blocker, Chemistry complex and Heldenfels, which have an estimated cost of \$7.1 million. After completion of these projects, 16 smaller scope projects will remain.

Rainer noted that of the 201 items listed on the State Fire Marshal's report, 127 have been addressed. Regular updates are provided to the Fire Marshal, and it is anticipated a Fire Marshal representative will return to campus for a follow-up visit in two to three months.

Sippial stated that the Board of Regents approved a \$30 million fire and life safety program in 2002, with funding allocated at \$3 million a year for 10 years, with an additional \$6 million to rehabilitate the high rises (Rudder, Eller and Harrington Tower).

Signage at Olsen Field

Kevin Hurley from Athletics contacted Perry to verify that it would be appropriate for Athletics to place an inward facing billboard at the Olsen Field outfield fence. The billboard would have pictures of current and/or former student-athletes with a small sponsorship logo. Perry noted inward facing signs are consistent with CBE's past practice and policy.

The Council requested additional information about the sign such as the dimensions of the billboard, the exact location of where it will be placed and the backboard structure. Sippial will contact Hurley for this information and report back to CBE next week.

Academic Master Plan

The Council reviewed the updated draft memo to Prior regarding an Academic Master Plan. Perry stated he had mentioned the concept at the Council of Deans meeting today. The plan would provide CBE direction in the areas the colleges hope to develop in teaching and research.

Summers suggested that a part of the Academic Master Plan include an external review by nationally recognized academic leaders, and ideally be led by President Gates. The external review should only take a few months, so as not to delay the overall academic master plan.

Perry asked the Council to review the updated draft and provide additional suggested wording. The topic will be discussed again at next week's meeting.

Use of Vacated Space for Units Moving to Cain

The Council reviewed a profile of available space in Henderson, Legett, Teague, 1111 Research Park, and GSC swing space. Once President Gates approves the use of Cain Hall for Student Counseling Service and Residence Life, Perry will send the space profile to the Academic Program Council for their information and will request space use proposals by the end of the month. Perry noted of the 16,000 SF of space in Teague, 4,000 will be assigned to Geosciences, which should complete their faculty reinvestment space needs.

Calvin stated that he plans to discuss with the Council of Participating Life Sciences Deans uses for Henderson that would complement the research in the Life Sciences building.

Perry asked that the Council to consider the format of the space profile information and let him know if there are any concerns.

Munnerlyn Building

Sippial has confirmed with Susan Brown at the Coordinating Board that the Munnerlyn renovation can be split into two projects—one for Aerospace Engineering renovations and fire and life safety upgrades, and one for Physics renovations. This will permit the projects to be bid on separately, and will allow Aerospace to move forward with their renovation plans, while Physics is still deciding how they want to use their portion of the building.

Science has indicated they would like to temporarily use their three-fourths of the building to house Physics graduate students. Bennett expressed concern that using the space for graduate students would further delay the collaborative research effort in space science and engineering. Perry will talk to Newton on other alternatives to house the graduate students. It may be that Newton will want to propose using some of the upcoming available space.

Utility Work to Support Wellborn Road Grade Separation

Sippial said some utility lines may need to be moved to accommodate the grade separation projects at Wellborn Road. Maps will be reviewed to determine on whose easement the lines are located and who would be responsible for paying to move the lines.

Michigan State Construction Communication Procedures

The Council received a copy of Michigan State University's procedures for communicating construction-related information. Perry asked the Council to review and provide comments to either him or Sawtelle on whether this type of document should be modified for use as an A&M Standard Administrative Procedure. The draft communication plan distributed a couple of weeks ago to CBE is being reviewed by Steve Moore.

Other Business

- Perry asked Magill to let the Faculty Senate know he would be pleased to visit with the Senate about upcoming construction projects.
- Magill asked if the city would be able to finish the Jones Butler extension quicker if an animal underpass does not need to be included. Sippial will check.
- Wixson talked to director of dining services, Nadeem Siddiqui, about the space in the Commissary. Siddiqui was concerned that the area is fairly full, however Bisor noted that the space may just need to be reorganized. Bisor stated there is also space behind the Purchasing Building which would be used for storage.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13.