

**Council Chairs Meeting**  
**February 15, 2006**

**Present: Colleen Cook, Joe Newton, Bill Perry, David Prior, Nancy Sawtelle, and Jerry Strawser**

- **Council on the Built Environment**

- The Council on the Built Environment (CBE) will host an open forum this afternoon (February 15, 2006 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Rudder Theatre) to present an update on the allocation of space to support of the Faculty Reinvestment Plan. Discussion topics will include upcoming construction projects and the potential for disruption in parking and transportation. The forum is an opportunity for members of the campus community to hear about plans for the Texas A&M campus and to ask questions about how these projects may affect their activities.
- Discussions about the location of the Emerging Technologies and Economic Development (ETED) building are ongoing.
- Engineering and Agriculture are preparing proposals about uses for the Centeq Building.
- The CBE is continuing to work with Science and Engineering on Phase II space needs.
- The CBE is developing a recommendation on the assessment of deferred maintenance. CBE will ask the Finance Council and the Research Council to vet the recommendation before submitting it to the President.

- **Education Council**

- The Education Council will be discussing strategy for implementing the recommendations from the Undergraduate Task Force that are currently being refined by the *ad hoc* task force chaired by Elsa Murano. The Murano task force has six thematic areas for recommendations without consideration of increased need for funding or increased enrollment. Cook recommends that the Council review this briefly, providing implementation guidance to President Gates.
- The report from *ad hoc* task force considering access to majors will be submitted on March 1. Strawser said that the task force has taken a holistic approach and is considering costs and resources as they relate to providing access to majors and increasing undergraduate enrollment. This matter will be discussed further at Deans' Council

- **Finance Council**

- The Finance Council will meet this afternoon to hear a presentation on the findings of the recent purchasing services assessment by representatives of the Division of Finance and the Calyptus Consulting Group. Strawser anticipates that the Council will recommend actions related to strategic sourcing as a result of the findings of the assessment.
- Discussed planning to meet unexpected expenses.
- Discussed the relative costs and benefits of hiring a consulting firm or using in-house personnel to perform assessments.

- **Research Council**

The Research Council has not met since the last Council Chairs meeting.

- **Review of Vision 2020 Goals**

- As a result of the recent progress report from the Vision 2020 Advisory Council, the President would like the Councils to look at appropriate sections of the progress report and reconsider the goals of Vision 2020 in terms of resources and the modern education environment. Finance Council should focus on how resources are affecting the goals as well as strategies for increasing resources. Education and Research Councils should consider goals independent of resources.