Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council for the Built Environment
July 10, 2012, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

I. Attendance
A. Voting members
   1. Present: N.K. Anand, Pierce Cantrell, Kate Miller, Valerian Miranda, Doug Palmer* representing José Bermúdez; Taylor Smith; Janice Walpert* representing Thomas Mather; and Joe Weber. A quorum was present.
   2. Absent: José Bermúdez, Scott Bowen, Thomas Mather, Mladen Kezunovic
B. Ex-Officio members
   1. Present: Rodney McClendon, Karan Watson, Matt Fry, Kevin Hurley, James Massey, David Morrison, Tom Reber, Ward Wells (Acting Chair, DR), Deborah Wright
   2. Absent: B.J. Crain, Rod Weis
C. Non-voting members:
   1. Present: Bill Dugas
   2. Absent: Thomas Harwell, Guido Kanschat, Kevin Pollak, Lawrence Rauchwerger, and Jeff Seemann

II. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair McClendon at 1:34 p.m.
A. Approval of the Minutes: The June 12, 2012, Minutes were unanimously approved with a minor correction in Section III., C.,4. The concluding statement was revised from “working with the academic colleges” to “accommodating existing users”. The revision was offered to more accurately reflect the current users of the White Creek area across academic and agency lines. CBE voted unanimously to accept the Minutes with the proposed revision.

B. Updates and Announcements
   1. Expression of Appreciation for Mr. David Woodcock
      Co-Chair McClendon offered a statement of appreciation for Mr. Woodcock’s service, while he was employed, and post-employment, to the CBE and as Design Review Sub-Council Chair. Co-Chair McClendon offered an apology to the CBE for neglecting to publicly acknowledge and thank David Woodcock at the June CBE meeting. Mr. Woodcock’s retirement was effective late June. The Co-Chairs expressed regret that Woodcock declined their offer to host a farewell reception in his honor. In the interim period between Woodcock’s departure and the arrival of the University Architect, Ward Wells has agreed to serve as the Acting Chair of the Design Review Sub-Council.

   2. University Architect
      Following a national search with broad campus involvement in the interview process, Lilia

*designated substitutes who hold voting privileges for a given meeting are listed in the attendance roster as voting members.
Gonzales has been selected for the position of University Architect. She will join Texas A&M on August 1. Ms. Gonzales was previously with the University of North Texas System as Director of Planning and Development. Co-Chair McClendon stated his confidence in the selection and stated that the Co-Chairs are looking forward to her arrival.

3. Outsourcing
The Texas A&M University System decided to outsource four Texas A&M units for which RFP’s were issued to Compass Group, USA. Compass is already on campus learning more about the Facilities Services’ day-to-day operations. A significant impact for the CBE is that the current chair of the Maintenance Sub-Council (Msc), Rod Weis, will be a Compass employee. The Co-Chairs and James Massey are working to determine the best University-employee candidate to chair the Msc. The Co-Chairs believe this Sub-Council should be chaired by a Texas A&M employee. The Co-Chairs will develop ways to work collaboratively with Compass. The MGT report seems to suggest projects of $10M and less will be delegated to the campus to run. This is revised from $4M and less and is an important area in which close collaboration will be necessary. Draft contracts are under review. The intended date for contracts to be in place is around the first of August.

4. Kyle Field District Plan, Phase 2
The Phase 2 Plan was previously approved by the CBE. The construction plan will be going forward to the Board of Regents and has been modified to eliminate the “branded entryway,” which included the construction of a road from George Bush Drive into the Bright Football Complex. The Co-Chairs, in communication with the Design Review Sub-Council Chair, agreed that elimination of this item from that originally proposed does not represent a change of the magnitude required for further review. The Co-Chairs notice of the revised construction on the Kyle Field District Plan Phase 2 is offered to the CBE as an informational item.

5. Follow Up to Proposed Living/Learning Community on West Campus - DRsc
At the June meeting CBE recommended to the President to approve the West Campus Housing Proposal. The DRsc recommendation specified that the construction be consistent with the housing on main campus and be held at the 50 to 75-year construction standards. The DRsc felt strongly about the housing proposed as it will be on the north “face” of the university’s west campus. Co-Chair McClendon called for a re-vote to modify the CBE’s previous recommendation—the recommendation letter to the President has been held, pending today’s meeting-- to allow for clarification. The vote passed unanimously to modify the CBE recommendation to the President to clarify that this is a 50 to 75-year construction.

III. Presentations by Sub-Councils
A. Engineering Education Annex and Zachry Renovation – DRsc, FURsc, Msc, TRsc
1. DRsc –approves the concept as presented and notes the plan is consistent with the Campus Master Plan. It is recommended that the design include a study of the pedestrian circulation
and connectivity and integrates inside and outside spaces. The existing facility has easy access to utilities and exhaust systems. It was recommended this flexibility be preserved during the programming phase and in order to plan for future needs. The design study should consider infrastructure focus on the renovation’s appearance and consistency with the look of the surrounding buildings and those proposed for north of University Drive. DRsc asks attention be given to the buildings height and mass and the relationship with the ETED building as these two form a significant “gateway” to campus.

2. FURsc – recommends the proposal as presented and supports Engineering to proceed with the conceptual components of a proposed new annex and renovation of Zachry. FURsc’s support includes preparation of a detailed architectural drawing and launching a fundraising campaign. It is anticipated the CBE will be re-engaged as more specific plans are developed.

3. TRsc – supports the recommendation to prepare detailed architectural drawings. Concerns TRsc has include the numerous utility infrastructure complications that could have a detrimental effect on the proposal’s viability. Recommend an indepth engineering study of the costs to move, adjust or add utilities on the proposed location.

4. Msc – In the absence of Msc Chair Weis, James Massey stated Msc’s request that an endowment for the maintenance of the building be incorporated into the fundraising efforts. The Msc report included a number of concerns for the maintenance costs and a list of utility infrastructure complications that need to be addressed.

5. CBE voted unanimously to recommend the President’s approval of the request for Engineering to proceed with their proposed Engineering Education Annex and Zachry Renovation.

**Action/Recommendation:** Memo will be sent to the President recommending his approval for the development of the pre-construction conceptual design.

**Responsible Parties:** Co-Chairs Watson and McClendon

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**B. Two-year review of March 2010 President’s Approval of Mechanical Engineering Department’s Society of Automotive Engineer’s temporary use of Riverside Building 6775:** caveat for review after two years – FURsc, TRsc

1. FURsc – recommends approval for SAE’s continued use contingent on an additional review in two years.

2. TRsc – recommends approval as long as Transportation Services (parking and campus access) procedures continue to be followed.

**Action/Recommendation:** Memo will be sent to the President recommending his approval of the continuation of this space assignment with the above conditions.

**Responsible Parties:** Co-Chairs Watson and McClendon

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**C. Liberty Bell Relocation – DRsc, TRsc**

1. DRsc – presented three locations as potential sites for the Liberty Bell’s proposed relocation to increase visibility of the bell on campus. Each of the proposed sites requires significantly different levels of investment and affords different advantages and disadvantages, e.g. viewing ease; 360° viewing; option to ring; and cost of construction of
mounting infrastructure. The three sites are: the MSC Flag Room, the pedestrian path on the north side of Joe Routt in front of Rudder Tower (currently under construction) and the quadrangle between the Academic Building and the Cushing Library.

2. TRsc – TRsc Chair Reber stated that their Sub-Council had a lengthy discussion but did not reach a consensus on a space that would be ideal for the bell’s relocation.

3. The CBE discussed the pros and cons of outdoor and indoor sites. Concern for outdoor spaces focused on the expense of infrastructure for mounting the bell, lighting, etc., as well as security and protection of the bell (cost to protect against potential vandalism, protection from the elements, etc.). The consensus of the CBE Members was that the bell should be located indoors.

**Action/Recommendation:** Co-Chairs Watson and McClendon requested the DRsc and TRsc re-examine indoor options, noting a number of sites mentioned in the discussion, including, but not limited to: Koldus lobby atrium; Exhibit Hall in Rudder; Student Success Center in YMCA; Veterans’ Lounge in the MSC; and/or potentially other sites in the MSC.

**Responsible Parties:** Sub-Council Chairs Ward Wells and Tom Reber.

**IV. Miscellaneous**

Co-Chair McClendon requested Matt Fry investigate the status of the Utility and Energy Management Capital Plan proposal routed to the Office of the President for signature.

Co-Chairs McClendon and Watson will distribute a memo later today informing Deans and Vice Presidents of space available in Milner Hall. Interested parties will have one week to submit an expression of interest for the approximate 16,000 sf available later this year. There is one party interested; if no others come forward, CBE will work with that College to make plans for their use of the space.

**V. Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: August 14, 2012 – 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. - 410 Rudder Tower**