May 18, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. R. Bowen Loftin

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: Architecture (ARCH) Request for a Temporary Structure at Riverside Campus

At its May 8, 2012 meeting, the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) discussed a request from the College of Architecture to build a temporary structure at the Riverside Campus in which to conduct research on hybrid solar-electric light.

Design Review Sub-Council recommends approval with the instruction to the College of Architecture to clean up the area.

Facilities Utilization Review Sub-Council recommends approval and is in agreement with the finding that the project structure and other related effects should be removed at the end of the project, at the cost of the grant, College or department.

Technical Review Sub-Council recommends the proposal as submitted as long as the following concerns are addressed and funded: if data network connectivity is needed, the research team will work with CIS; at the end of the study the structure should be disassembled and the site cleaned; if research is security sensitive, appropriate measures will be included at the time of construction.
CBE voted unanimously to recommend the President's approval to allow the College of Architecture to proceed with construction of the temporary structure for research on hybrid solar-electric light with attention to the above-stated considerations.

Karan L. Watson
Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Rodney P. McClendon
Vice President for Administration
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

R. Bowen Loftin
President

cc: Sub-Council Chairs, Council for the Built Environment
Dean Jorge Vanegas, College of Architecture
TO: Dr. Karan Watson  
Provost and Executive Vice President  
Co-Chair, Council on the Built Environment

Dr. Rodney McClendon  
Vice President for Administration  
Co-Chair, Council on the Built Environment

THROUGH: Dr. Jorge Vanegas  
Dean, College of Architecture

FROM: Dr. Lou Tassinary  
Executive Associate Dean

SUBJECT: Approval request for construction of a temporary facility at the Architecture Ranch site, Riverside Campus, in support of federally funded research on hybrid solar–electric light

Earlier this year, Professors Liliana O. Beltran and Jose Fernandez-Solis received an EPA award for $75,000. The construction of the temporary structure will be covered by this funding. An architectural drawing of the temporary structure is attached.

Due to a misunderstanding regarding the process our request to the CBE has been delayed. I understand, however, there is a streamlined process for temporary structures to be processed through the CBE’s Design Review Sub-Council and the Technical Review Sub-Council.

The site for this temporary installation is a pre-existing concrete pad at the south-west corner of the 13 acre site allocated to the College of Architecture on the Riverside Campus, a site generally referred to as the “Architecture Ranch.” The College of Architecture’s digital fabrication facility is also located on this site. This land was allocated to the College of Architecture to facilitate full-scale construction and testing. Consequently, issues regarding restoration following deconstruction, parking and necessary infrastructure are not concerns with respect to this particular project.

A request to expedite the process is requested as the funding agency, the Environmental Protection Agency requires their final report in mid-August before the funding expires.

cc: Patti Urbina, Program Coordinator, Vice President for Administration

Attachments: architectural drawing of proposed structure
Memo

To: Professor Ward Wells, Architecture Department Head
    Professor Joe Holden, Construction Science Department Head
    Dr. Lou Tassinari, Executive Associate Dean
    Dr. Jorge Vanegas, Dean College of Architecture

From: Dr. Liliana O. Beltrán, Architecture, Associate Professor
      Dr. José Fernández-Solis, Construction Science, Assistant Professor

Date: 2/8/2012
Re: Construction Proposal of Testing Facility at Architecture Ranch, Riverside Campus

Attached is the construction proposal of the Testing Facility for the EPA P3 project: "Horizontal Hybrid Solar Light Pipe Experiment, an Integrated System of Daylight and Electric Light." This document is being submitted to the Texas A&M Council for the Built Environment (composed of the councils for: design review, technical review, maintenance; space allocation) for their review and approval.

We will be building one rotating room at the Architecture Ranch, Riverside campus.

Budget:

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<td>Construction of one rotating</td>
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<td>room, site preparation</td>
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As instructed by the College of Architecture, please initial and date next to your name and forward the attached proposal to the next person on the list. You may make a copy for your records. The executed document will then go to the Council for the Built Environment as noted.

Attachment: Picture of rotating room
One Rotating Room

Room area = 650 sq.ft.
Site area for room rotation = 1,964 sq.ft.

Room dimensions and area needed for room rotation
MEMORANDUM

TO:         Dr. Karan Watson
            Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
            Dr. Rodney McClendon
            Vice President for Administration

FROM:   Prof. David Woodcock
         Chair, Design Review Sub-Council

DATE:     May 3, 2012

RE:  Design Review Sub-Council Report
     Temporary Building at Architecture Ranch

On April 18, 2012 the Design Review sub-council (DRsc) reviewed a request from the College of Architecture to construct a temporary facility at the “Architecture Ranch” site at Riverside Campus. The area, which has been assigned to the College of Architecture by the Council for the Built Environment, provides a unique opportunity for full-scale testing and experimentation with building materials and assemblies. This proposal calls for the construction of a “room” on a turntable to investigate the performance of horizontal light tubes. This cross-disciplinary research is entirely in keeping with the college mission and the use of the Riverside Campus. A prototype has already received positive attention as a way to maximize the use of daylight in buildings. The college states that the structure will be removed at the conclusion of the research planned for summer 2012.

The DRsc respectfully notes that much of the “Ranch” area is currently visually unattractive and potentially hazardous, and hopes that completed projects can be removed, and materials organized to reflect a well-managed research and construction site. It is suggested that funds should be included in all such projects to ensure removal and reinstatement of the site at the conclusion of the research or teaching experience, recognizing that some studies may have a long-term component.

With these observations, the DRsc recommends the project for approval as presented.

cc:   Design Review Sub-Council Members
      Ms. Patti Urbina
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Karen Watson
   Provost and Executive Vice President

   Dr. Rodney McClendon
   Vice President for Administration

FROM: [Signature]
   Tom Reber
   Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

DATE: April 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Temporary Facility At Riverside Campus

Dr. Lou Tassinary submitted a request to construct a temporary facility at the Architecture Ranch Site, Riverside Campus in support of federally funded research on hybrid solar-electric light.

The site for this temporary installation is a pre-existing concrete pad at the south-west corner of the 13 acre site allocated to the College of Architecture on the Riverside Campus. The College of Architecture’s digital fabrication facility is also located on this site. This land was allocated to the College of Architecture to facilitate full-scale construction and testing. Consequently, issues regarding restoration following deconstruction, parking and necessary infrastructure are not concerns with respect to this particular project.

Recommendation
The Technical Review Sub-Council is supportive of the proposed temporary facility at the Riverside Campus. We recommend approval to the CBE as long as the following concerns are addressed and funded.

Computing
If data network connectivity will be needed for remote data acquisition, then CIS Networking should be involved during the design/construction process. From the information provided, it is not clear where the new building will be located relative to the existing network infrastructure. Connecting the building via fiber or wireless will have a cost of up to several thousand dollars depending on the data rate needed, so in view of the temporary nature of the project, consideration could be given to stand-alone data collection with data being transferred using removal media.

Site work
The project is consistent with the use for this sight. At the end of the study the room should be disassembled and the site should be clean. This project should go forward.
Security
Regarding College of Architecture request I do not see any issues with this structure. However, if the research to be conducted in this facility is sensitive, I would think that all necessary security concerns with the structure will be included at the time of construction.

Utilities
Currently there is an existing overhead line running along 4th street on the north side of the project site. The project will need to fill out a service request form allowing distribution to set a pole mounted transformer and secondary service to the building. Energy management would have to install the necessary meter. The load is estimated to be a small air conditioner and lighting.
CBE Co-Chairs,

The CBE Facilities Utilization Review sub-council (FURsc) met on Friday, April 20th, to consider the request by the College of Architecture to construct a temporary research facility to support a $75,000 grant by the Environmental Protection Agency. To support the needs of the grant, the 2,000 square foot, rotating room facility will need to be complete by August of this year. The project is proposed to be constructed at the Riverside Campus on land in use and assigned to the College (aka. “Architecture Ranch”).

The FURsc believes the request is consistent with the use of the land at the proposed location and recommends that the CBE support the request as presented. The membership support, includes the same caveat provided by the Design Review sub-council that the project structure and other related effects, should be removed at the end of the 2 year research project, at the cost of the grant, college or primary department.

Please let me know of any questions.
Thanks,
James

James Massey
Interim Senior Associate Vice President - Facilities
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-1247
(979) 845-1911

Texas A&M University