June 22, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. R. Bowen Loftin
   President

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: Proposal for Plaques at the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Flag Display

Former students Dr. Travis Small ’63 and Mr. Frank Cox ’65 submitted a proposal to the MSC Renovation Committee to erect ten flags and six plaques at the south side of the Memorial Student Center. After talking to numerous student leaders, the proposal was modified to nine flags and four plaques.

Presentations were then made to the Technical Review Sub-council (TRsc) and Design Review Sub-council (DRsc) of the CBE. There was overwhelming support for the nine-flag display by both subcouncils and the CBE, and you subsequently approved their installation. They were unveiled at the rededication of the Memorial Student Center on April 21, 2012.

The CBE returned the plaques proposal to the DRsc for further review and discussion. The DRsc received presentations from the proposers at two separate meetings. DRsc reviewed both the wording and the plaque design, later reduced to two plaques at the final presentation. The DRsc acknowledged that the purpose of the flag display and the associated plaques was to explain the long history of Aggie military service and sacrifice, a heritage that was fully acknowledged and deeply appreciated by the members of the DRsc.

After careful deliberation the DRsc recommended that the proposed gift of plaques to be placed under the service flags be respectfully declined, finding that the plaques are redundant to the message of service and sacrifice so eloquently expressed by the flags themselves, by the very presence of the Memorial Student Center and through the many symbolic and written exhibits found within the building.
The CBE motion passed unanimously to accept the DRsc's recommendation to request Presidential approval to respectfully decline the proposed gift of plaques to be placed under the service flags.

Should you decide to proceed with the installation of the proposed plaques, the DRsc would wish to comment on the specific wording to ensure compliance with the recently adopted policy on Texas A&M Campus Plaques.

Karan L. Watson  
Provision and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment  
1-2-12

Rodney P. McClendon  
Vice President for Administration  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment  
6-27-12

R. Bowen Loftin  
President  
7-5-12

cc: Sub-Council Chairs, Council on the Built Environment