COUNCIL FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Co-Chairs:
Dr. Karan L. Watson, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Rodney P. McClendon, Vice President for Administration

April 1, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. R. Bowen Loftin

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: Riverside Campus Plan

At its February meeting, Professor David Woodcock, committee chair for the development of the Riverside Campus Plan (RCP), presented to the Council for the Built Environment a proposed RCP. A framework for decision-making, the RCP closely parallels the Campus Master Plan for management of the Riverside Campus; it suggests a vision for future ideas to be developed and promotes a recommendation to formally establish an RCP User’s Group. The RCP was developed in an inclusive process with participation of representatives from the following organizations:

- Council of Deans
- Riverside Campus occupants
- RCP Steering Committee
- Center for Heritage Conservation
- Office of Facilities Coordination
- Division of Administration

Vision

The shape of the future campus does not differ greatly from the 1940 plan. The RCP includes prospective, potential and proposed building locations and is intended to offer guidance on where new buildings might go. It is a recommended priority that a number of buildings capable of re-use on the campus be preserved. The RCP committee hopes that the historical corridor, as defined in the original layout, may, over time, inspire changes to clarify the unique and special aspects of the Riverside Campus’ heritage.

Goals for the Riverside Campus Plan:

1. to visually reinforce the RCP as part of Texas A&M, a Tier 1 institution; branding clearly reflects and matches the quality on main campus;
2. to address security concerns related to campus access;
3. to improve “way-finding” through the addition and improvements of signage, mapping, etc;
4. to provide high-quality physical infrastructure;
5. to propose design guidelines for re-use of existing buildings;
6. to add new buildings that are compatible to the environment;
7. to identify the specific structures and layout to honor the historic and cultural heritage of the campus;
8. to add a community facility to serve as a “center” of the campus and a “point of arrival”; the facility will be complete with security and administrative offices, meeting rooms, places for researchers to interact and/or have meals (currently RCP has no equivalent to a student center, faculty club, nor an administrative headquarters);
9. to consider inclusion of a shuttle service from the proposed community facility to research institutes;
10. to showcase environmental and operational sustainability in the Campus’ current and future activities;
11. to create and observe clear and equitable policies.

Operations and Management
The RCP does not require anything to change in the operation of current activities. As on the main campus, it is possible for spaces to be reassigned, buildings to be reassigned, circulation to change, etc. The CBE should continue to develop policies for the equitable use of the space at the Riverside Campus. The Office of Facilities Coordination should continue to oversee the RCP and the operations on campus.

It is recommended the CBE establish a Riverside User’s Council to operate much like the Design Review Sub-Council does on the Main Campus. This would promote a sense of community and encourage interaction among the occupants at the Riverside Campus. It would offer the opportunity to bring the RCP vision forward and formally recognize efforts already established in an existing User’s Group currently chaired by David Morrison.

A number of infrastructure needs were identified in the RCP and should be addressed:
   a. roads are in poor condition;
   b. parking is inadequate;
   c. no emergency/alternative exit exists;
   d. there is inconsistent lighting;
   e. security issues, related to campus access and inadequate lighting;
   f. old and aging utility systems;

CBE voted unanimously to recommend the President’s approval of the Riverside Campus Plan as proposed and to support the CBE in naming an RCP User’s Council to oversee operations and management of the campus.

Karan L. Watson  
Provost & Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs;  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment  
Date  
4-18-73

Rodney P. McClendon  
Vice President for Administration  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment  
Date  
4-19-2013

R. Bowen Loftin  
President  
Date  
4-19-13

cc: Sub-Council Chairs, Council on the Built Environment  
Professor David Woodcock, DRsc Chair (ret) and primary author of the Riverside Campus Plan