April 3, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. R. Bowen Loftin

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: New Urban and Structural Entomology Facility

At its March 12th meeting, the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) reviewed a request from the Department Head of Entomology, Dr. David Ragsdale, to build a new facility to house offices, conference rooms and laboratories in support of programs in Urban and Structural Entomology. The new facility will replace existing and dated facilities on the east side of Agronomy Road. The proposed building is approximately 11,000 gross square feet. The new facility is desired for occupation in the summer of 2014. Funding for the facility will be provided through donors and other sources. In addition, the request includes the right to retain space in two existing structures near the proposed building site.

In the discussion the CBE heard the following Sub-Council reports:

Design Review Sub-Council (DRsc) – The DRsc recommends approval of the request with the following observations and contingencies: (1) realignment of the AgriLife District Plan; (2) Adherence with CBE policy regarding the repurposing of that site which was originally designated for Facilities Services. If approved, the DRsc will review the project again at 100% Schematic Design phase.

Facilities Utilization Review Sub-Council (FURsc) – recommends approval of the proposed new facility. FURsc notes the facility will allow the consolidation of program elements currently housed in five buildings into one location. In addition to the new facility, FURsc supports the program’s retention of existing facilities adjacent to the proposed new facility.

Technical Review Sub-Council (TRsc) – recommends approval providing the concerns listed below are addressed and funded:

Environmental Health and Safety: retention of existing buildings requires renovations to address fire/life safety code and laboratory standards. The cost of these renovations could be significant.

Facilities Services: a professional engineer needs to calculate the project’s impact on storm drainage and ensure proper handling of it. The engineer needs to calculate both the before and after construction storm drainage and incorporate means to detain the increase for at least 24 hours. These calculations and the planned means of detention need to be presented during the design process.

Transportation Services: parking lot construction will be paid for by Transportation Services who will ensure compliance with standards for lighting, as well as parking spaces for disabled, motorcycles, and bicycles are included at the appropriate levels. Additional details for the access road need to be identified, including a determination by a traffic engineer as to the best access from the east or west drive. The drive should be paved, and consideration given to access for the existing buildings to the north of the site.

Utilities & Energy Services: relocation of sanitary sewer lines crossing the site will be required; an in-depth survey of the site needs to be completed to assure the ability to relocate the lines from the site is an option, and to make sure that the cost of relocation will not be detrimental to the overall budget. Domestic cold water and electrical access is available. Natural Gas (ATMOS) should be included in the project for overall efficiency in heating the building. UES needs to inspect any reassigned space to evaluate the condition of the HVAC system and controls and ensure more efficient operation in the future.
CIS Networking: Provision in the budget should be made for installation of single mode fiber to the structure and contractor-installed structured wiring system to TAMU new building standards.

A majority of the CBE members voted unanimously in favor of the request, with the Agriculture Program representative abstaining, to recommend the President's approval for the construction of the new facility and the department's retention of existing facilities suitable for continued use.

Karan L. Watson 4-18-15
Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs;
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Rodney P. McClendon 4-8-2013
Vice President for Administration
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

R. Bowen Loftin 4/23/13
President

cc: Dr. Mark Hussey, Dean and Vice Chancellor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Dr. David Ragsdale, Department Head, Entomology
Sub-Council Chairs, Council on the Built Environment