MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Mark A. Hussey
Interim President, Texas A&M University

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: Memorial Plaza Adjacent to Corps Arches

At its September 23, 2014 meeting, the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) discussed a request from The Corps of Cadets is seeking approval of a creation of a "Memorial Plaza" adjacent to the Corps Arches located at the front of the QUAD. This plaza would encompass the repositioning of war monuments located around campus. Specifically, World War One and The Spanish American War. The proposed site will also allow for any future war monuments, and serve an aesthetically pleasing and functional focal point for these symbols of Aggie sacrifice and commitment to service. This "Memorial Plaza" will create an honored place on our vast campus that will be well known and utilized to serve as a source of pride for the early contributions and sacrifices towards human liberty by our students, and faculty and staff.

Design Review Sub-Council (DRsc) – The DRsc members unanimously voted to recommend approval of the concept for the creation of a Memorial Plaza, including the relocation of the WWI and Spanish American War monuments, with the following comments:

- DRsc members expressed concern with the plaza becoming too dense in the future if other monuments are added.
- Design team should consider reinforcing the formality of the plaza through symmetry and axis alignment with the WWII monument.
- The DRsc anticipates further review of the project at 100% Schematic Design, in accordance with DRsc procedures.

Technical Review Sub-Council (TRsc) – The TRsc reviewed the proposal of the Creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to Corps Arches and recommends approval, if it is delayed until the Fall of 2015 to allow utility work to be completed.

- Facilities Services:
  The design team needs to ensure that the project does not increase the rate of storm runoff into local creeks.

  The project team should coordinate with Grounds Management for landscaping and irrigation concerns.

- Utility & Energy Services:
  It should be noted that when the Corp Dorm renovation begins, UES will be traversing the plaza area with large scale utility and telecommunication utilities.
The main point we want to convey is that it would not make sense to invest in significant improvements in the Memorial Plaza right before UES performs major excavation to install utility infrastructure. The corridor route maps show the major piping and infrastructure routing, but there are also other smaller utility lines to residence halls in the vicinity that will likely also have to be installed, resulting in even more excavation in the plaza. Planned schedule for installation of the utility corridor is Summer 2015. Funding for approved project is in place, but date could change if development plans change.

Further development or improvements of the plaza area itself should be refrained pending the completion of this project.

The project and design team will need to follow the TAMU policy on digging on campus prior to any excavation.

- EHS and SASE:
  Any plaza renovations must ensure that university lighting standards are met for those added features.

The CBE voted unanimously to recommend the President’s approval of the Corps of Cadets request for the creation of a "Memorial Plaza" adjacent to the Corps Arches located at the front of the QUAD.

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

Mark A. Hussey  
Interim President  

cc: Tom Reber, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs  
Sub-Council Chairs, Council for the Built Environment
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Karan L. Watson  
Provost and Executive Vice President  
Co-Chair, Council on the Built Environment

Ms. B.J. Crain  
Vice President for Finance & Administration  
Co-Chair, Council on the Built Environment

THROUGH: Tom Reber  
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

FROM: BG Joe E. Ramirez, Jr., USA (R)  
Commandant, Corps of Cadets

SUBJECT: Creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to Corps Arches

The purpose of this memo is to request that you consider for review and recommendation thru your Sub-Councils and the CBE, the submission and approval of a creation of a "Memorial Plaza" adjacent to the Corps Arches located at the front of the QUAD.

This plaza would encompass the repositioning of war monuments located around campus. Specifically, World War One and The Spanish American War.

The proposed site will also allow for any future war monuments, and serve an aesthetically pleasing and functional focal point for these symbols of Aggie sacrifice and commitment to service.

Background

Currently two war "monuments" on campus, that of World War One located near Albritton Tower and the Spanish American War located on a street median at the rear of the Sanders Corps Center are infrequently visited by anyone or used as a place for reflection of the early sacrifices that many Aggies made when the College was very young and unknown.

1) Many current students and staff are completely unaware of the monuments existence or importance as symbols to our shared history. Those who are aware rarely if ever have viewed the monuments as a destination spot or place to learn about Aggie History.

2) Additionally there are a number of much smaller plaques scattered about the campus that are dedicated to the military service of Aggies and this plaza would unify and formalize the display of such objects.
3) The plaza and monuments that are both pre WWII era would also tie-in symmetrically with the existing memorial currently located opposite that commemorate WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Vietnam, GWOT, and all post WWII sacrifice.

4) This concept is spelled out in the approved Corps District Plan and would of course adhere to the Campus Master Plan guidelines.

From the Corps District Plan page 18: "MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN - Zone 1
Once on the plaza, the existing war memorial and flag parade provide a strong visual impact that should be used as a cue to create an additional memorial area on the opposite side of the plaza. A memorial on each side of the plaza would help define the area as a gathering space in front of the arches."

Rationale and Project Funding

It is our strong belief that if done correctly with attention to aesthetics, dignity, and understanding of the landscape that this "Memorial Plaza" will create an honored place on our vast campus that will be well-known and utilized to serve as a source of pride for the early contributions and sacrifices towards human liberty by our students, and faculty and staff.

The purpose, location and overall plan would also allow for any future monuments of a similar nature to be deliberately and logically.

The funding for the project will be incurred by the Corps of Cadets OOC. The budget estimate and associated site work, construction, landscaping and placement costs will be paid for by the OOC to a selected A/E firm once this request has been approved and can be provided once received.

We are pleased to submit this recommendation and are looking forward to any questions.

BG(R) Joe E. Ramirez, Jr.
Commandant
Corps of Cadets

cc: Bettyann Zito, Program Coordinator, Council for the Built Environment

Attachments:
A. Preliminary rendering of proposed site and monuments.
B. Additional photos of current site and plaza.
C. Corps District Plan can be viewed: http://corps.tamu.edu/pdfs/CorpsMasterPlanFinal.pdf
Attachment A: Conceptual Rendering of proposed Memorial Plaza showing World War One Monument (right) and Spanish American War Monument (left)

Memorial Plaza Proposal Highlights:

- Relocate Spanish American War Monument to area in between Commons and Quad
- Relocate World War One Monument to same area
- Full landscape of monument sites to create a Memorial Plaza
- Add Bronze marker that discusses history of military service and sacrifice at A&M
- Create a destination spot w/ benches and lighting

Additionally, this project would significantly improve access and exposure to non-Corps Students, official parent / prospect visitor tours that currently stop here & visitor traffic on game day/event days. Also increases prominence, care, and education of the reason for their existence.

* Type of groundscapes vegetation, brickwork, and any embellishments would adhere to CBE and Campus Architectural guidance.
Attachment B: Additional Site Photos

*Current condition of proposed location

*Current WW2 & Post WW2 Memorial opposite proposed plaza site

* Proposed Site for Monument pedestals for WW1 and Spanish American War Monuments
July 14, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO:        Dr. Mark Hussey
            Interim President

FROM:      Tom Reber
            Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

SUBJECT:   Delegation of Authority, Division of Student Affairs

I will be out of the office July 18-25, 2014. During this time, Dr. David W. Parrott, Executive
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief of Staff, has been delegated the authority to
act on my behalf with regard to all matters of the Division of Student Affairs.

cc:        David Parrott
            C.J. Woods
            Cynthia Hernandez
            Cari Tawney
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Karan Watson
    Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

FROM: Ms. Lilia Gonzales, AIA
       University Architect and Chair, Design Review Sub-Council

DATE: September 4, 2014

RE: Design Review Sub-Council (DRsc) Report
   Corps of Cadets Memorial Plaza

On August 13, 2014 and August 27, 2014 the Design Review sub-council reviewed a request from the Corps of Cadets for the creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to the Corps Arches located at the front of the Quad. This request is to proceed forward with the project concept.

In this request, the WWI and Spanish American War monuments would be relocated to the area across from the existing WWII monument with the creation of the Memorial Plaza. Military-related plaques that are currently scattered across campus could be incorporated into the plaza, and any future war monuments could potentially be located within the new plaza.

This request is in alignment with the Corps of Cadets District Plan (page 19). The Corps of Cadets believes that consolidation of the monuments and plaques to this area would create a destination place and improve access to war monuments for all students and visitors. They intend to use existing benches and install lighting. Paving patterns and landscaping would adhere to campus standards.

DRsc members discussed possibilities for reinforcing the formality of the plaza design through symmetry and axis alignment with the WWII monument. This could possibly include combining the location of the WWI and Spanish American War monuments into one paved area, in lieu of the two separate paved areas as shown in concept.

** Recommendation**

DRsc members unanimously voted to recommend approval of the concept for the creation of a Memorial Plaza, including the relocation of the WWI and Spanish American War monuments, with the following comments:

- DRsc members expressed concern with the plaza becoming too dense in the future if other monuments are added.
- Design team should consider reinforcing the formality of the plaza through symmetry and axis alignment with the WWII monument.
- The DRsc anticipates further review of the project at 100% Schematic Design, in accordance with DRsc procedures.

Please let us know if you need additional information.

cc: Chris Emmerson
    DRsc Members
    Bettyann Zito
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

MEMORANDUM

TO: 
Dr. Karan Watson
Co-chair, Council on the Built Environment

Ms. B. J. Crain
Co-chair, Council on the Built Environment

FROM: Tom Reber
Chair, CBE Technical Review Sub-council

DATE: August 21, 2014

SUBJECT: CBE TRsc Recommendation: Creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to Corps Arches

On August 11, 2014, Col. Chris Emmerson presented to the CBE’s Technical Review Sub-council on the proposed Creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to Corps Arches.

The proposed Memorial Plaza would be adjacent to the Corps Arches and located at the front of the QUAD. It would encompass the repositioning of war monuments located across campus, allow for future war monuments and serve as a functional focal point for these symbols of Aggie sacrifice.

Recommendation

The Technical Review Sub-council reviewed the proposal of the Creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to Corps Arches and recommends approval, if it is delayed until the Fall of 2015 to allow utility work to be completed.

Facilities Services:

The design team needs to ensure that the project does not increase the rate of storm runoff into local creeks.

The project team should coordinate with Grounds Management for landscaping and irrigation concerns.

Utility & Energy Services:

It should be noted that when the Corp Dorm renovation begins, UES will be traversing the plaza area with large scale utility and telecommunication utilities.

The main point we want to convey is that it would not make sense to invest in significant improvements in the Memorial Plaza right before UES performs major excavation to install utility infrastructure. The corridor route maps shows the major piping and infrastructure routing, but there are also other smaller
utility lines to residence halls in the vicinity that will likely also have to be installed – resulting in even more excavation in the plaza. Planned schedule for installation of the utility corridor is Summer 2015. Funding for approved project is in place, but date could change if development plans change.

Further development or improvements of the plaza area itself should be refrained pending the completion of this project.

The project and design team will need to follow the TAMU policy on digging on campus – prior to any excavation - https://utilities.tamu.edu/digging-campus/

**EHS and SASE:**
Any plaza renovations must ensure that university lighting standards are met for those added features.

**FCOR/GIS:**
Facilities Coordination has no technical concerns regarding the creation of a Memorial Plaza adjacent to Corps Arches.

**Transportation Services:**
No concerns with this project.

**CIS:**
No concerns with this project.

**University Police:**
No concerns with this project.

**Xc:** CBE Technical Review Sub-council
CBE Support Staff