MEMORANDUM

TO: President Michael K. Young

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: Proposed Space Utilization – Pavilion

According to University Rule 41.01.01.M1, one of the charges of The Council of the Built Environment (CBE) is to review requests for space for the University and make recommendations to the President. In the near future, due to the completion of renovations, or expiration of temporary agreements, space in the Pavilion will be available space for allocation. In February of this year, a memo was forwarded to the Deans, Vice Presidents, and Agency Directors to ask those interested to submit a short proposal on their desire for available space. CBE’s Facilities Utilization Review sub-council (FURse) was charged to review each request and determine the priority of the needs presented and then prioritize the space requests. The FURse met to consider the requests by the College of Architecture, the University Libraries and the combined request of the Study Abroad Program and International Student.

The College of Architecture would convert the space to provide a centrally located permanent facility dedicated to the teaching of design and art studio courses for the campus at large. Initially, the bulk of the course offerings will come from majors within CARC. The College’s long term vision is to offer more of the very popular art studio courses to the overall student body. The pavilion offers a convenient “hot” design and art studio space. The overarching vision is to teach design and art studio courses in the renovated large configurable studio spaces 4 days a week, and in addition, make some of the space available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday on a first-come, first-serve basis, affording students space needed to work outside of the formal class time.

The University Libraries would expand student space and engagement through the creation of a Library Graduate Annex space. Recently, the University Libraries have been working to refine and focus on services to graduate students, who often have different needs than undergraduates. The need for this area is consistent with feedback received in LibQual+ results and consistent with the recent hire of a graduate student focused Learning & Outreach Librarian. The Libraries would like to create something similar to the GPS (Graduate & Professional Student) Zone at the Medical Sciences Library on central campus. The proximity of the Pavilion to the Evans Library/Library Annex complex and the layout of the space offers an opportunity to implement this on a near term basis. Space could be configured as some dedicated use space for study and outreach events and for possible expansion of programs and targeted activities for Graduate Students, including meeting and event space. This would help address growing needs on the part of OAGPS and the University Writing Center who use Library event/meeting spaces for many of their outreach and engagement programs.

The combined request of the Study Abroad Programs Office and International Student Services makes a strategic use of space to better serve students on campus, remove permanent occupants from Bizzell Hall, which continues to have significant deferred maintenance concerns, and combine student services within
Academic Affairs and Academic Services into a combined location with Scholarships & Financial Aid. Currently, ISS and SAPO occupy most of the ground floors and part of the second floor of Bizzell Hall East and West in addition to some storage space in the basement. While the current assigned space between these two offices is in excess of the available 7600 square feet, the moving of these two offices could be accomplished within the available space and better meet the needs of each of the offices and the students they serve. Both offices currently have inadequate reception areas for the volume of traffic in these offices. With this space, ISS and SAPO would create a combined reception area that would create further efficiencies for the university. Both offices work very closely with the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid, which occupies the top floor of the Pavilion. The shared conference room space would also allow Scholarships & Financial Aid to convert room 106 into needed advising space to address student debt needs.

The Facilities Utilization Review sub-council agreed that each of the proposals had merit and recognizes the recommendation gives precedence to functions that are less academic in nature. The opportunity to vacate Bizzell, once Nuclear Engineering moves out, was critical in the decision. The many issues that the building has related to accessibility and environmental quality and the fact that the building has been identified to be demolished due to excessive maintenance costs were paramount. The sub-council recommends that, under normal circumstances, Bizzell not be reoccupied. The sub-council notes that should a proposed project, which would include the demolition of Cain Hall, come to fruition it may cause all of the recommendations to be voided if the space in the Pavilion is needed for use by Cain Hall occupants.

After further discussion, the CBE voted to recommend the President’s approval to reallocate the available space in the Pavilion to the Study Abroad Programs Office and International Student Services.

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

Jerry R. Strawser  
Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Concur or not concur with CBE’s recommendation:

Michael K. Young  
President  
Date