

Advisory Planning, Architecture, and Aesthetics Committee

JUNE 15, 2009 - MEETING OVERVIEW AND CONCLUSIONS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee members: John Delano, Janet Riker, David McCaffrey, Fardin Sanai, Steve Beditz, Catherine T. Lawson, Josh Sussman (SA President), John Giarrusso.

Staff: Errol Millington, Randall Olocki, David LaComb, Cori Irwin

Guests: Chris McGrath (SUCF)

1. Podium Sky Domes - Update and Recommendation

APAAC is being asked to comment and endorse final conclusions regarding the design of the Podium "sky domes." Prior APAAC meetings helped narrow-down a range of structural and design options. Campus staff is circling-back for final conclusions.

- John Giarrusso provided an overview of the sky domes project to date, including a summary of decisions reached at earlier APAAC meetings.
- The APAAC had previously directed campus planners to advance a design that stayed true to a dome scheme (as opposed to other shapes or structural solutions) in keeping with the E.D. Stone architecture.
- Glass, Plexiglas, and ETFE (fiberglass) pillows were considered for the structure. After months of design and engineering, ETFE appears to be the only viable option for the domes. See below.



- ETFE is a fiberglass fabric that is sandwiched between steel framing and filled with air to form transparent "pillows" that can be extremely rigid and especially light.
- Given modern building codes, including issues of snow loading, glass proved to be too heavy and would require an overly intricate steel framing structure that would stray too far from the existing dome design. Plexiglas, while lighter, could not be designed into a structure that a manufacturer would warranty for longevity.
- Accordingly, campus staff have pursued the ETFE option. It best replicates the Stone design (as above) and being lighter, is hoped to save construction costs related to steel framing and structural support at the roof level.

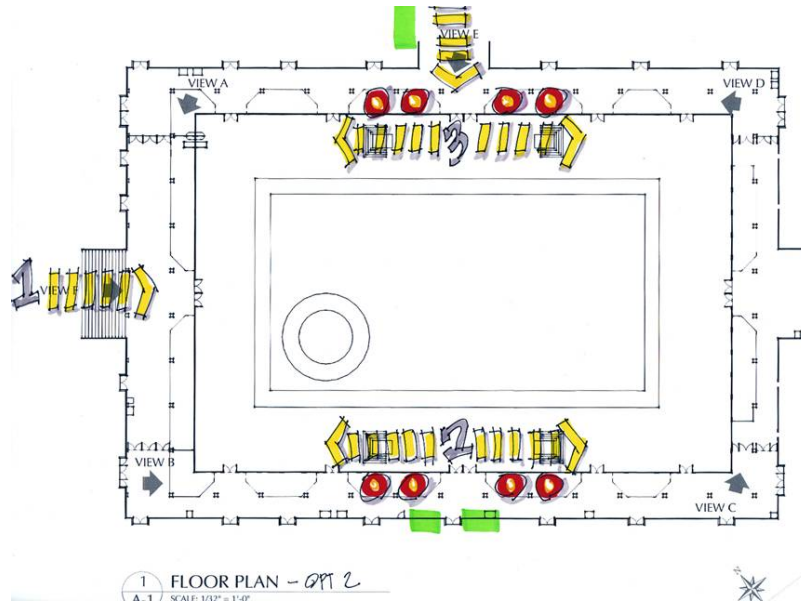
- The APAAC was supportive of this option, agreeing that it best replicates the domes.
- Discussion ensued on the durability of the ETFE and the electrical/mechanical needs of the ETFE system (which requires pumps to maintain air pressure). Staff explained that any bid for the ETFE system would seek a 10+ year service warranty, but have no reason to believe (given other installations worldwide) that the system would not hold up for 40 years.
- Nonetheless, staff is still pursuing answers related to maintenance and durability. They will seek additional information related to U/V rating, potential for condensation, and additional warranties as they finalize design.
- John Giarrusso also presented the design for the center opening (depicted below, also constructed of pillows) and explained that it would be an add-alternate to the project should funding be available.



2. Lecture Center Concourse Upgrades - Update

APAAC is being asked to comment and endorse preliminary conclusions regarding the design of seating and vending upgrades in the Lecture Center concourse. The notion of adding seating and creating a sense of "place" in the Lecture Center area was previously discussed at the January 2009 APAAC meeting.

- Errol Millington presented a summary of the prior discussion on this topic and showed more developed options for seating and vending improvements.
- Three main areas were identified for such upgrades: the west portion of the Concourse (leading from the Library), the north portion, and the south portion. It was suggested that one be selected as a prototype given funding concerns and the need to "test" whether the solutions works.
- The map below illustrates the locations.



- The rendering below depicts what could be done on the south Concourse (location 2 above). Flexible seating would be provided as a place for student gathering, but would be moveable for larger events like Open House. Vending would be co-located and screened, placed into new inset spaces that would be “carved-into” the existing Lecture Center walls. Lighting would be improved.
- APAAC generally approved of such upgrades and encouraged the pursuit of more design details.
- Later phases of the project, suggested Professor Lawson, could be good fund raising opportunities.

