Advisory Planning, Architecture, and Aesthetics Committee
AUG. 29, 2012 - MEETING OVERVIEW AND CONCLUSIONS

IN ATTENDANCE:
Committee members: Janet Riker, David McCaffrey, Steve Beditz, John Giarrusso, Catherine T. Lawson, Fardin Sanai, Christine Bouchard, Andi Lyons
UAlbany Staff: Errol Millington, Andrew Weiss, James Moore
Guests: Steven Pearse

1. Campus Center Addition Update

APAAC is being asked to contribute to the discussion of site and design aesthetics still being determined during Schematic phase of project design on the Campus Center.

- John Giarrusso opened the agenda item by summarizing earlier discussion with APAAC regarding the direction to pursue a building addition on west side of the existing Campus Center Extension. Since that time, given the staging and operational challenges of renovating and expanding a functioning Campus Center, there is a proposal to construct a smaller additional building on the east side of the Campus Center.
- James Moore provided more detail. He gave an update on the design progress, sharing renderings and site plans, and the need to build an 18,000 square foot addition to the east to accommodate dining during the renovation of the existing kitchen and to provide longer-term dining options.
- He then presented design items still under review, including the monumental exterior staircase to the south of the west side addition, the ‘glass-box’ staircase by the Parent’s Fountain, the removal of the existing central interior stairs, the removal of original wall sections, and the amount of glass being discussed on the façade of the two additions.
The committee was asked to contribute to the discussion of aesthetic and heritage issues associated with the outstanding design decisions.

Andi Lyons shared that the monumental stair to the south needs a more refined/integrated into the overall scheme.

Catherine Lawson added that any elevator in the addition should be highly visible and easily accessed from the main points of entry.

David McCaffrey inquired about the overlap in construction with the main fountain. As currently scheduled, the construction for the Campus Center will begin after the main fountain is scheduled to be completed.

The next step for UA is to continue to refine these items with the architect, before taking the plans to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) scheduled for September 11th.

Christine Bouchard inquired into the likelihood that SHPO would reject the current designs where conflicts occur with the original building. Errol Millington’s response is that there will be a prioritized list of needs, where compromises could occur to the less crucial elements.

2. New Campus Building Naming Convention

APAAC is being asked to comment regarding the need to officially name what has become to be known as the ‘New Business Building’ (Building 510) which will open for the fall of 2013 and house classrooms and the School of Business.

John Giarrusso began the discussion by explaining that the University needs to officially name Building 510 (new B-School) and also consider renaming all of the Podium buildings, over time, as they are renovated and populated with different departments/functions which will be inconsistent with the current building’s name and signage.

He shared building naming conventions research, comparing UAlbany’s building names to how those of other SUNY campuses, current peers, and aspirational peers of UAlbany name their buildings. Conclusions drawn from this research showed that function-based building names (as is prevalent on the Podium) are the exception with more common building names tied to college leaders, local history, and donors.

Fardin Sanai expressed concerns that the fundraising campaign has been tied to the New Building for the School of Business and a building name without “business” in it may upset some of the donors.

John Giarrusso explained that the existing convention of naming buildings after their occupants and functions creates a false sense of ownership over facilities as occupants can change over time.

Moreover, if, say, building 510 is named the Business Building while at the same time the University retains the existing Business Administration building, it will be confusing for visitors and be a potential issue for emergency responders.

Sue Phillips pointed out that the official title of a building does not preclude it from being referred to as the School of Business [Building]. Examples of this are the Rockefeller College which is housed in Milne Hall, and Dewey Library in Husted Hall.

John Giarrusso concluded by saying that a committee with School of Business representatives has been formed to consider and recommend a name for building 510 that will be forwarded to the President for approval by October 2012. In addition, a committee will be formed, with Senate involvement, to consider naming conventions for the rest of the Podium buildings. This committee will be tasked to come up with recommendations by next summer 2013.
3. **Fountain Lighting Options**

*APAAC was asked to comment generally on fountain lighting options and schemes.*

- John Giarrusso presented renderings of the fountain with seemingly infinite combinations of colored LED lights that can be programmed and customized to campus needs.
- The LED lighting for the Campus Center Fountain, Main Fountain, and Water Tower is highly customizable. The lighting can also be coordinated with the fountain jets, as well as music, if one were to program such a thing.
- The fountain consultant will be providing UAlbany with 5-6 preset lighting combinations. The University must determine what we would like to receive.
- A committee is being assembled to determine patterns and colors for lighting, involving Media and Marketing, Facilities, and Student Success. Andi Lyons has expertise in this field and was invited to join the committee.
- Color combinations have to be carefully considered.