

**ANNUAL REPORT: THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE [DRC], 2004/2005  
July 1st, 2004 – June 30th, 2005.**

Membership of the DRC:

Professor Ron Venter (Chair), Vice-Provost, Space and Facilities Planning

Mr. John Bisanti, Chief Capital Projects Officer/ Ms. Catherine Riggall, Vice-President, Business Affairs

Mrs. Elizabeth Sisam, (Secretary), Director, Campus and Facilities Planning

Presidential appointee: Professor Brigitte Shim, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design

Presidential appointee: Mr. Marc Gotlieb, Dept. of Fine Art

Presidential appointee: Mr. Ron Soskolne, Soskolne Associates

Governing Council representative: Professor Ray Cummins, UTSC

Governing Council representative: Professor Phil Byer, Co-Chair, EPAC

Governing Council representative: Mr. Richard Nunn

UTM representative: Mr. Ray deSouza, Chief Administrative Officer, UTM

UTSC representative: Professor Ted Relph, Associate Principal, UTSC

St George representative: Dean George Baird, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design.

In June, 2001, the Planning and Budget Committee approved a new policy, Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects, which emphasized the importance of the Design Review Committee [DRC].

The DRC has contributed significantly to all developments on all three campuses and is increasingly recognized, both internally and externally, for the fair, yet critical, assessment of projects on behalf of the University community. Members of the Design Review Committee also participate, by invitation, in the Architect Selection process with user representatives and continue to review the projects as they progress.

The number of capital projects requiring review remained significant in 2004/05. The St. George Campus will have eight major buildings completed within the next 5-year period. The University of Toronto at Scarborough will have one new building opened and the University of Toronto at Mississauga will have three additional buildings opened within the next three years.

The Policy requires review by the Design Review Committee to first establish that the planned building is contextually appropriate to the site and the campus, addressing urban design criteria and massing. A follow-up discussion between the consultants and the DRC occurs when the project is in design development and addresses the landscape plan and palette of materials being considered within the budgetary framework. The complete mandate of the Design Review Committee as defined within the POLICY ON CAPITAL PLANNING & CAPITAL PROJECTS and approved by Governing Council in June 2001: The terms of reference of the Design Review Committee (DRC) are attached hereto as Appendix C [coincides with the appendix in the policy report].

It is in the University's interest that each major project requiring approval from Governing Council have that the exterior design elements and relevant public areas reviewed from a design perspective by the Design Review Committee established for this purpose. In making this provision, the University obtains advice towards design excellence on the campuses of the University. The University seeks comments from design professionals to ensure that campus objectives are met and that environmental and heritage issues are addressed.

The DRC has contributed extensively to the improved architectural and landscape design of all new buildings on the three campuses. The open discussion of each project has enabled better ideas to surface that otherwise might have been stifled and or neglected. In its deliberations, the DRC is ever mindful of the difficult trade-off between expectations and the budgetary reality; and is therefore seeking the effective practical, yet innovative, solutions that embrace good, durable and creative design to achieve a sense of landscaping consistency to the campus whilst pushing the envelope of green buildings with good sustainability.

Several projects that have been reviewed by the DRC since 2002 have now opened on our campuses. There has been considerable attention from the design community acknowledging the University's success in campus planning. This year the City of Toronto Urban Development Services will initiate a Design Review Panel to consider projects with the City in much the same way as the DRC does for the University campus.

The DRC met on over nine occasions during this reporting period for some 25 hours. The membership is to be congratulated on their commitment to building a better campus; they have collectively served the University very well indeed.

## **JULY 2004 TO JUNE 2005**

During the period of July, 2004 to June, 2005, the Design Review Committee met a total of nine times, reviewing nine projects on all three University of Toronto campuses.

The following projects, each categorized within one of the eight defined sectors at the University of Toronto, have been reviewed by the Design Review Committee during the academic year 2004/05. Illustrations of a number of these projects have also been included.

### **Sector 1: University of Toronto at Scarborough**

No projects were reviewed.

### **Sector 2: University of Toronto at Mississauga**

University of Toronto at Mississauga: Phase 8 Residence

University of Toronto at Mississauga: Wellness Centre

University of Toronto at Mississauga: Academic Learning Centre

### **Sector 3: Health Sciences**

The Terrence Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research Water and Art Features

### **Sector 4: Faculty of Arts and Science**

Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition

### **Sector 5: Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering**

No projects reviewed

### **Sector 6: All Other Faculties**

Varsity Complex

### **Sector 7: Campus**

King's College Road

Philosopher's Walk

### **Sector 8: Residences**

University of Toronto at Mississauga: Phase 8 Residence

Bar Mercurio at the Woodsworth College Residence



University of Toronto at Mississauga: Phase 8 Residence



University of Toronto at Mississauga: Wellness Centre



University of Toronto at Mississauga: Academic Learning Centre



St. George Campus: Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition

**Sector 6: All Other Facilities**



St. George Campus: Varsity Complex



St. George Campus: King's College Precinct Landscape Improvements



St. George Campus: Woodsworth College Residence

## APPENDIX C: DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

[reference: Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects]

### C.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Design Review Committee [DRC] advises the President or delegate on the development of campus built form environments, in order to enable the President to implement the University's commitment to a level of excellence in this area comparable to that established for its academic activities. The Committee uses high standards in discharging its duties with respect to architect selection, design review and the interplay of design issues with other planning concerns. The Committee primarily focuses on Capital Projects sufficiently large to require approval by Governing Council on the basis of Project Planning Reports . All projects are assessed with respect to approved Master Plans, which will also be reviewed from time to time by the DRC.

The Committee's mandate includes:

C.1.1. Advice on campus master plans, on the University's general principles and on physical planning and building design.

C.1.2. Recommendations to the President and Vice-President, Business Affairs on the appointment of architects and landscape architects for all projects within its terms of reference with an exterior design component and public spaces and for all renovations or alterations to historically designated or listed buildings.<sup>2</sup> Projects having significant landscape components will require the appointment of a landscape architect as part of the design team.

C.1.3. Review and make recommendations on conceptual and detailed design for building and landscape projects.<sup>3</sup> Matters under review should include the extent to which overall campus planning and design objectives are met, design excellence is achieved and environmental and heritage issues are addressed. The Committee focuses primarily on the overall integrity of the basic design, rather than on design details.<sup>4</sup>

C.1.4. Being available for consultation, on an as needed basis, by administrative officers responsible for campus planning and design.

C.1.5. Reporting to the Governing Council on its activities, on a basis to be established by the Executive Committee of Governing Council.

<sup>1</sup> Currently, this is for projects with total cost of \$2 million or more.

<sup>2</sup> The University's normal approach to design of major capital projects is to choose consultants, who will then work with users and others to develop a building design. It may be advisable on occasion to choose consultants [architects] for a specific project on the basis of design competitions, instead of via selection process. Such competitions are established prior to the process leading up to the completion of a Project Planning Report and only after consultation with the DRC.

<sup>3</sup> Such reviews are normally required at the following stages: (a) prior to finalization of schematic plans, in order to ensure timely and effective oversight of the basic approach being taken to individual projects, (b) at the conclusion of design development, prior to permission being sought, normally through the Business Board, to proceed to project implementation, and (c) at any other time during project development when, at the request of a core member of the Project Committee, the Co-Chairs of DRC consider it advisable to review the fundamental design aspects of a project. Such a review, for example, could arise from concerns that the balance being struck between project design and project cost will lead to a disregard for overarching design values.

<sup>4</sup> The reviews are intended to be sufficiently rigorous that the President can be advised on the overall conformity of the proposal to the high standards expected of it, both with respect to design and in terms of its integration with other elements of the University's built form environment. It is the President's responsibility to resolve problems arising from different or conflicting advice given, e.g. by a Project Committee and DRC.

## C.2 COMPOSITION

The Design Review Committee will comprise a total of nine members plus four formally appointed ex-officio members. The membership of the Committee represents a coalition of design expertise, university governance, campus planners/ operations



and services, and representation of the three campuses. Additional members will be co-opted, as needed, to further strengthen the particular campus representation when campus specific Capital Projects are tabled for review.

The Committee will have two Co-Chairs. One will be the Vice-President and Provost (or designate). The second Co-Chair will be appointed annually from among the non ex officio members by the President. Any member of the Committee may be appointed by the Co-Chairs to chair a panel as this need arises.

The Executive Secretary to the Co-Chairs of the DRC will be the Director, Campus Facilities and Planning.

Four persons appointed by the President because of their expertise and qualifications in design and related fields, at least two of whom shall be from outside the University.

Three members from the Governing Council, its Boards or the wider University community, with particular recognition of multi-campus participation, to be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chairs of the Academic and Business Boards. At least one of the three members shall be a current or former member of the Business Board.

Vice-President, Business Affairs (or designate), ex officio

The Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design (or designate), ex officio

The Principal of University of Toronto at Mississauga (or designate), ex officio

The Principal of University of Toronto at Scarborough (or designate), ex officio

Participation by others is requested by the DRC for individual projects or purposes as required to enhance the review process. Specifically, members should be added to ensure adequate representation from each campus when projects to be undertaken on that campus are reviewed, and to include the Chair of the relevant Project Committee and other Project Committee members, as appropriate, when individual projects are discussed.

Assessors (non-voting) appointed by the President as needed.

The Committee's members, other than the ex-officio members or their designates, will normally be expected to serve for terms of up to three years, renewable up to a total of six years consecutive service. Appointments should be staggered to ensure continuity.

### C.3 METHOD OF OPERATION

The Design Review Committee will normally meet on a monthly basis. To accommodate campus specific reviews of capital plans, meetings will be held on that particular campus which corresponds to the agenda items under review. This will also allow the DRC to be fully informed of the site specific conditions as these relate to the project. An important role of the ex officio members, particularly for the UTM and UTSC representatives is to assist in the coordination of the DRC meetings held at the Scarborough and Mississauga campuses and ensure the appropriate campus representation at these meetings.

The Committee will discharge its functions, at the discretion of its Co-Chairs, either in full committee or in panels, subject to the following:

C.3.1. The discharge of functions C.1.1 and C.1.5 [see terms of reference] above require consultation with the full Committee.

C.3.2. The Architect Selection Panel must include the Chair [or designate] of the relevant Project Committee(s), two members of the Design Review Committee [or designates], an architect recommended by the Dean of Architecture, Landscape and Design, the Principal of UTM or the Principal at UTSC, (depending on the site of the capital project), and the Vice-President Business [or designate]. The V-P Business [or designate] will chair the Architect Selection Panel. Once a short list of architects has been identified, three additional representatives from the campus associated with the capital project will be invited to join the panel to recommend on the final architect selection.

C.3.3 Non-members of the DRC with particular design expertise may also be added to panels for specific projects.

C.3.4 At regular meetings of the DRC to assess the architectural design of a particular project, normal practice will require a brief presentation on the relevant background context of the project under review prior to the presentation by the architect.