



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Planning & Budget Committee

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PRESENTER: Scott Mabury, Vice President, University Operations

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DATE: April 27, 2016 for May 11, 2016

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Design Review Committee: Annual Report, 2015

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Planning and Budget Committee receives reports for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

- 1. Planning and Budget [for information] (May 11, 2016)**

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Design Review Committee (DRC) underwent a significant re-vitalization and transformation during the 2014 year. Two major initiatives were brought forward: one, the DRC Terms of Reference was revised and conveyed through governance. The revised Terms of Reference presented a mandate to achieve the highest standard of design quality across the University, consistent with the University's distinction for academic excellence. The new mandate clarified the focus on a number of ambitions for campus planning and building design: in summary those aspirations are:

- To recognize and celebrate the historic landscape of the University in the re-development of heritage, new building and landscape projects.
- Strengthen and enrich campus and landscape interconnectivity through new landmark projects.

- Bring a balance of integration of new projects with existing heritage and to celebrate heritage buildings which are so critical to the sense of place of the University in the city.
- Harmonization of design excellence with budgets, constructability, and durability.

Second, membership of the Committee has undergone a significant transformation. Under the previous Terms of Reference the Committee membership was substantially internal from both the University academic and administrative communities. The Co-Chairs were the Provost and a non-ex-officio member appointed by the President. The new DRC membership has significantly greater representation from the highest ranks of the professional design community outside the University. New members have been selected as well for their experience on other design review panels, such as the City of Toronto Design Review Panel, the Waterfront Design Review Panel and the National Capital Commission Committee on Planning, Design and Realty. The new membership also draws from the management team of University Planning Design and Construction which brings internal campus planning and project delivery expertise to the committee. Further, the University is very fortunate to have Bruce Kuwabara, one of Canada's leading design architects as one of the Co-Chairs.

Membership of the Design Review Committee as of September 2014:

Bruce Kuwabara (Co-Chair) KPMB Architects, Partner
Scott Mabury (Co-Chair) Vice President, University Operations or designate
Paul Bedford, Paul Bedford & Associates, Principal
Carl Blanchaer, WZMH Architects, Principal
Don Schmitt, Diamond Schmitt Architects, Principal
Jane Pepino, QC, Aird & Berlis LLP (municipal lawyer & Governing Council member)
Richard Sommer, Dean Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design (DFALD)
Robert Wright, Associate Professor, Director of the Centre for Landscape Research, DFALD
Christine Burke, (DRC Executive Secretary) Director, Campus & Facilities Planning
George Phelps, Director of Project Management, University Planning Design & Construction
Adrienne De Francesco, Executive Director, Capital Projects, University Planning Design & Construction
Paul Donoghue, Chief Administrative Officer, University of Toronto Mississauga
Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief Strategy Officer, University of Toronto Scarborough

During the period of January to December 2015, the Design Review Committee met a total of eight (8) times to review a total of 8 different projects on the St George and Mississauga campuses. The projects included new construction, renovations and additions of a wide range of academic facilities.

The following projects were reviewed by the Design Review Committee during 2015:

University of Toronto Mississauga

- UTM North Building Phase B
- UTM Parking Deck

St. George Campus

- New College Landscape
- Robarts Common
- Tanz Neuroscience Building Signage
- Huron Sussex Laneway Houses
- St. George Campus Secondary Plan
- Spadina Sussex Residence

The Design Review Committee reviews projects for compliance to the individual campus master plans prepared for each campus and the University's broad goals for design excellence on each campus.

At DRC meetings, projects are presented by the design team for each project to the DRC. Teams present the projects at least twice and on an as need basis, additional presentations are reviewed. The first review occurs at an early schematic design stage. This is intended to establish that the proposed building and landscape concept is contextually appropriate to the site and campus and addresses urban design criteria and massing as delineated by the University's master plans as well as campus wide issues of parking, loading, traffic impact, accessibility and servicing. At this meeting, the DRC reviews building design requirements such as: internal functionality, opportunities to elevate student experience, flexibility/adaptability options and interconnectivity with other buildings.

A second review and follow-up discussions between consultants and the DRC occur when the project is in the design development phase where details of the building have been determined and are better refined.

The landscape plan is reviewed for the articulation of open space within the site, opportunities for synthesis with adjacent areas and interconnectivity to the wider campus. Finally the palette of materials and signage is considered. Throughout the process, the DRC review is considered within the budgetary framework of the project.

The DRC conducts reviews of the strength of ideas proposed and provides guidance to explore options that otherwise might not have developed. In its deliberations the DRC is mindful of the difficult trade-off between expectations, budgetary reality and long term faculty goals, seeking a balanced approach to the resolution of design concerns. The DRC is not tasked with the design of the project, but to work with design teams to set high expectations for design, in all aspects.

Projects are also reviewed with respect to sustainability and environmental concerns as these continue to be increasingly important in our built environment and impact the ongoing operating costs of our buildings.

The complete mandate of the Design Review Committee is defined in Design Review Committee Terms of Reference found on the University Planning Design and Construction website. This mandate was approved by Governing Council in June, 2014

Citations and Awards:

- Munk School of Global Affairs, Heritage Toronto Award of Merit, William Greer Architectural Conservation and Craftsmanship Category

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

None