



**FOR INFORMATION**

**TO:** Planning and Budget Committee

**SPONSOR:** Gail Milgrom, Director, Campus and Facilities Planning

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**DATE:** February 15, 2013 for February 27, 2013

**AGENDA ITEM: 6**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Design Review Committee: Annual Report, July 2011- December 2012

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Business Board Committee receives reports for information.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects which was approved by Governing Council on June 28, 2001 established the Design Review Committee to advise the President or delegate on the development of campus built form environments. Under the Policy, the Committee is required to report to Governing Council on its activities; the Executive Committee has recommended that the annual report of the Design Review Committee be presented to the Planning and Budget Committee of the Academic Board and to the Business Board.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

During the period of July 2011 to June 2012, the Design Review Committee met a total of four times to review a total of four different projects on the three University of Toronto campuses. Two additional meetings were held to review five projects between July 2012 and December 2012. One mailing was sent in lieu of a meeting to receive comments on four projects.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for information only

## **ANNUAL REPORT: THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE 2011/12**

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 and July 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

Membership of the Design Review Committee:

Vice-President and Provost Designate: Dean Richard Sommer, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design (Chair)

Ms. Gail Milgrom, Acting Assistant Vice-President/Director, Campus and Facilities Planning (Co-Chair)

Ms. Jennifer Adams Peffer, Senior Planner, Campus and Facilities Planning (Executive Secretary)

Presidential appointee: Associate Professor Brigitte Shim, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design

Presidential appointee: Mr. John Switzer

Presidential appointee: Mr. Ron Soskolne, Soskolne Associates

Presidential appointee: Professor Lisa Steele, Associate Chair, Department of Art

Presidential appointee: Associate Professor Rob Wright, Associate Dean, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design

Governing Council representative: Ms. Kim McLean, CAO, Faculty of Arts & Science

Governing Council representative: Professor Joe Desloges, Principal, Woodsworth College

Governing Council representative: Mr. Ken Davy, Undergraduate Student

UTM representative: Mr. Paul Donoghue, Chief Administrative Officer, UTM

UTSC representative: Mr. Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief of Strategy and Planning, UTSC

The Design Review Committee (DRC) has contributed in the consideration and review of all developments on the three campuses of the University since 2001. Throughout this period of time, the DRC has contributed extensively to ensure that high quality design and construction occurs at this University to create an enriched and inspiring environment. Projects are scrutinized individually and within the context of the University campus through debate and peer review. Such review contributes to 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 and budgetary reality seeking a balanced approach to the resolution of design concerns.

These efforts have been successful as evidenced by the numerous awards and recognition, municipal, national and international, of our capital projects and open space initiatives on all three campuses of the University. However, most significant is the very positive influence on the campus experience for students, faculty and staff.

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

During the period of July, 2011 to June, 2012 the DRC met a total of four times and reviewed four projects, two of which were reviewed twice. Two additional meetings were held to review five projects between July 2012 and December 2012. Additionally, one mailing was sent in lieu of a meeting to receive comments on four projects. The projects included new construction, exterior sports facilities, campus open space improvements and exterior signage initiatives.

Review of projects occurs at many levels and is often lengthy. First, to establish that the planned building is

contextually appropriate to the site and campus and addresses urban design criteria and massing as delineated by the University's master plans. Any anticipated municipal approvals or variances are also discussed at this point as well as campus wide issues of parking, loading, traffic impact, accessibility and servicing.

Second, follow-up discussions between consultants and the DRC occur when the project is in design development phase where details of the building have been determined and may be better refined.

Finally the palette of materials is considered within the budgetary framework of the project. The landscape plan is presented clearly illustrating what the articulation of the open space is to be within the site and any impacts to adjacent areas. Master plans are reviewed against proposed planning principles for consistency and relevance to support the academic environment and mission.

The complete mandate of the Design Review Committee is defined in Appendix C of the *Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects*. This mandate was approved by Governing Council in June, 2001. As the original mandate is now over 10 years old it is recommended that a review be undertaken to ensure that it is consistent with the new Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects which was approved by Governing Council in June, 2012.

The following projects, each categorized within one of the nine defined sectors at the University of Toronto, have been reviewed by the Design Review Committee during 2011/12.

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

- UTSC Pan American Aquatics Centre (Infrastructure Ontario project; reviewed jointly with the City of Toronto Design Review Panel)
- Bladen Building Stair Tower Addition

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

- UTM North Building Phase 1

#### Sector 3: Health Sciences

- No projects were reviewed

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

- No projects were reviewed

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

- Bahen Centre for Information Technology (BCIT) signage

#### Sector 6: All Other Faculties

- Pan Am Field Hockey (Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education (FKPE), Infrastructure Ontario project)
- Clara Benson Building Renovation (FKPE)
- Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work signage and landscaping

### Sector 7: Campus

- Campus Signage
- North Campus Laneway
- Willcocks Common
- Bissell House Landscaping

### Sector 8: Residences

- New College Landscape Plan

### Sector 9: Space

No projects were reviewed

### **Citations and Awards 2011/12:**

Again this year, completed capital projects were recipients of significant design awards, pointing to the sustained design excellence in recent projects. Three projects received awards including the following:

1. The Instructional Centre at UofT Mississauga was the recipient two design awards:
  - 2012 International Interior Design Association Annual Interior Design Competition, Winner (one of 6)
  - 2012 Award of Excellence, Mississauga Urban Design Awards
2. The Instructional Centre at UTSC was the recipient of one design award:
  - 2012 Pug Awards, Honourable Mention in the Best Commercial/Institutional Building category
3. The UTM Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex was the recipient of three awards:
  - 2012 Governor General's Medal for Architecture
  - 2012 OAA Design Excellence Award "Best of Show"
  - 2012 OAA Design Excellence Award