



**FOR
INFORMATION/**

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Planning & Budget Committee

SPONSOR: Scott Mabury, Vice President, Operations and Real Estate
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PRESENTER: As above.
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 2, 2024 for May 9, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Design Review Committee, 2023

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the Design Review Committee (“DRC”), the Committee is to report to the Governing Council on its activities (Section 1(1.5)). The Planning and Budget Committee receives the DRC Annual Report for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Planning and Budget Committee [For Information] (April 9, 2024)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Planning and Budget Committee received the Design Review Committee, 2022 annual report on May 3, 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS:

As defined in the Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects (“Policy”) dated October 28, 2021, the Design Review Committee is *‘an advisory body to the Administration appointed in accordance with the Design Review Committee Terms of Reference attached as Appendix D in the Policy, comprised of leaders in architecture, landscape design, and the design profession’*.

The Design Review Committee (“DRC”) advises the President or designate on the development of built form environments, in order to enable the University to implement its commitment to a level of excellence in this area comparable to that established for its academic activities. The mandate of the Design Review Committee is defined in the DRC Terms of Reference located on the University Planning Design and Construction website: <https://updc.utoronto.ca/university-planning/reviews-approvals/design-review-committee-drc/>.

During 2023, the Design Review Committee reviewed several major projects that individually and collectively improve the physical beauty of the University’s three campuses while providing for much needed new space and functional improvements. The projects represent new construction, as well as renovation and landscape projects demonstrating that a campus is comprised of quality buildings and open space that together contribute to the student experience.

Between January and December of 2023, the DRC met to review five (5) major capital projects. Last year, the DRC Committee reviewed and significantly contributed to the evolution of the following major projects across the three campuses:

St. George Campus

- Lash Miller Building Expansion *
- Hart House Infrastructure Renewal

Mississauga Campus

- UTM New Student Residence (Phase IX) *

Scarborough Campus

- UTSC Scarborough Academy of Medicine & Integrated Health (SAMIH) **
- UTSC Retail and Parking Commons

In addition to the major capital project reviews, a subset of the DRC met to review two (2) minor public facing projects on the St. George campus:

- Academic Wood Tower Signage
- 65 St. George – School of Graduate Studies Accessibility Ramp

* *Projects with two (2) reviews during 2023*

** *Projects with three (3) reviews during 2023*

Membership of the Design Review Committee throughout 2023:

Dave Lehto (Co-Chair), Chief, University Planning Design & Construction (“UPDC”)
Bruce Kuwabara (Co-Chair), KPMB Architects, Partner
Christine Burke (Secretary), Assistant Vice President, University Planning, UPDC
Scott Mabury, Vice President, Operations and Real Estate Partnerships
Renée Daoust, Daoust Lestage Lizotte Stecker, Principal
Juan Du, Dean, Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design
Pat Hanson, gh3 Inc, Principal
Anna Kennedy, Chief Operating Officer, KingSett Capital, Governing Council member *
Indi Gopinathan, VP Capital Markets & Business Development, Prime Mining, Governing Council member **
Don Schmitt, Diamond Schmitt Architects, Principal
Richard Sommer, Director, Global Cities Institute, Professor of Architecture and Urbanism & Dean Emeritus, Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design
Robert Wright, Professor, Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design
Costas Catsaros, Director, Project Development and Controls, UPDC
Deborah Brown, Chief Administrative Officer, University of Toronto Mississauga
Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief Administrative Officer, University of Toronto Scarborough

* *DRC Governing Council member to November 2023*

** *DRC Governing Council member since November 2023*

Projects are normally presented by the design team to the Design Review Committee three (3) times and may require additional meetings on an as need basis. The first review occurs at the early schematic design stage. The initial presentation is the opportunity to address the overall concept of the project including relevant background and context. This is intended to establish that the proposed building and landscape concept is contextually appropriate to the site and campus, heritage context as applicable, and addresses urban design criteria and massing as outlined 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 also reviews building design requirements such as internal functionality and floor plans, opportunities to elevate student experience, flexibility/adaptability options, sustainable design ambitions of the project with specific reference to University ambitions, and interconnectivity with other buildings.

The consultants will make a second presentation in the design development phase of the project, demonstrating how their proposal responds to the comments of the DRC at the initial presentation and how the project has developed into detailed design. A third presentation, normally the final review, occurs during the design development stage where the details of the project have been further developed. The landscape plan is reviewed for the articulation of open space within the site, opportunities for synthesis within adjacent areas and interconnectivity to the wider context. The palette of building and landscape materials is reviewed and signage may be considered. Throughout the process, the DRC review is considered within the budgetary framework of the project

and the method of project delivery.

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 university 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 reviewed with respect to sustainability and environmental concerns reflecting the University's commitment to decisive action against climate change.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

None