



University of Toronto TORONTO ONTARIO M5S 1A1

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PROVOST, SPACE AND FACILITIES PLANNING

TO: Planning and Budget Committee
Business Board

SPONSOR: Ron Venter, Vice-Provost, Space and Facilities Planning
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DATE: January 16, 2003 for January 20, 2003 Business Board meeting

AGENDA ITEM: Business Board 4(e)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Design Review Committee: Annual Report.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The *Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects* which was approved by Governing Council on June 28th 2001 established a 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.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Not applicable.

HIGHLIGHTS:

During the period of July, 2001 to June, 2002, the Design Review Committee met a total of ten times to review a total of nineteen projects on the three University of Toronto campuses.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information only

ANNUAL REPORT: THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE [DRC], 2001/2002

July 1st, 2001 – June 30th, 2002.

Membership of the DRC:

Professor Ron Venter (Chair), Vice-Provost, Space and Facilities Planning
Mr. John Bisanti, Director, Capital Projects/ Mr. Felix Chee, 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: Professor Alina Payne, Department of Fine Art
Presidential appointee: Mr. Peter Smith, Lett-Smith Architects
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. Paul Donoghue, Chief Administrative Officer, UTM
UTSC representative: Professor Ted Relph, Associate Principal, UTSC
St George representative: Dean Larry Richards, 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. This has become particularly significant because of the significant increase in the number of capital projects. The St. George Campus will see eight major buildings completed within the next 5-year period. The University of Toronto at Scarborough will have four new buildings opened and the University of Toronto at Mississauga will have two buildings open within the next three years. Additional construction is being planned to address enrolment expansion and the double cohort. This capital development in addition to campus plan improvements will dramatically change our campuses. Members of the Design Review Committee participate in the Architect Selection process with user representatives and continue to review the projects as they progress.

The Policy identifies review by the Design Review Committee first to establish that the building is contextually appropriate to the site and the campus, addressing urban design criteria and massing. A follow-up discussion when the project is in design development 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 2010: 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 project significant enough to require individual Governing Council approval, and which has an exterior design component or public area, be reviewed from a design perspective by a committee established for this purpose. In making this provision, the University seeks to obtain a level of advice commensurate with its desire to build in ways which provide outstanding examples of the work which the design profession can contribute to a university environment.

During the period of July, 2001 to June, 2002, the Design Review Committee met a total of 10 times, reviewing 19 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 2001/02. Illustrations of a number of these projects have also been included.

Sector 1: University of Toronto at Scarborough

UTSC: Student Centre
UTSC: Academic Resources Centre
UTSC: Phase IV Residence
UTSC: Management Building Bahen Centre
Centennial College Expansion at UTSC

Sector 2: University of Toronto at Mississauga

UTM: Communications, Culture and Information Technology Building
UTM: Centre for Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology
UTM: Phase VII Residence¹

Sector 3: Health Sciences

Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building
Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research

Sector 4: Faculty of Arts and Science

Sidney Smith Hall Infill
Botany Greenhouses at the Earth Sciences Centre

Sector 5: Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

Bahen Centre Information Technology

Sector 6: All Other Faculties

No projects reviewed

Sector 7: Campus

Early Learning Centre
King's College Road Revitalization
School of Continuing Studies

Sector 8: Residences

New College Residence
Woodsworth College Residence
University College Residence [review incomplete]
UTSC: Phase IV Residence
UTM: Phase VII Residence

The year 2001/2 also marks the start-up of construction for the first demonstration project of the Open Space Plan, King's College Road. The Design Review Committee sponsored the Open Space Master Plan and the first phase of the project. Work is now underway and completion of King's College Road and the Alumni Gates should be completed in 2003.

¹ Canadian Architect has announced that the Phase VII Student Residence, University of Toronto at Mississauga is the recipient of an *Award of Excellence*. The judges were particularly impressed by its siting and the environmental sensitivity. [For over 30 years, *Canadian Architect* has sponsored an annual national awards program, the only national awards that recognize projects in the design stage.]

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 the 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 innovation, solution that embraces good, durable and creative design that brings a sense of landscaping consistency to the campus whilst pushing the envelop of green buildings with good sustainability.

The DRC met on ten occasions during this reporting period for some 30 hours. The membership is to be congratulated on their commitment to building a better campus; they have collectively served the University very well indeed.



Sector 1: University of Toronto at Scarborough Student Centre



Sector 1: University of Toronto at Scarborough Academic Resources Centre



Sector 2: University of Toronto at Mississauga
Centre for Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology



Sector 2: University of Toronto at Mississauga
Communications, Culture and Information Technology Building



**Sector 2: University of Toronto at Mississauga
Phase VII Residence²**



**Sector 3: Health Sciences
Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research**

² Canadian Architect has announced that the Phase VII Student Residence, University of Toronto at Mississauga is the recipient of an *Award of Excellence*. The judges were particularly impressed by its siting and the environmental sensitivity. [For over 30 years, *Canadian Architect* has sponsored an annual national awards program, the only national awards that recognize projects in the design stage.]



**Sector 4: Faculty of Arts and Science
Sidney Smith Hall Infill**



**Sector 5: Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering
Bahen Centre Information Technology**



Sector 7: Campus
Early Learning Centre



Sector 8: Residences
Woodsworth College Residence



Sector 8: Residences
NEW 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 Reports³. 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.⁴ Projects

³ Currently, this is for projects with total cost of \$2 million or more.

⁴ 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.

- 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.⁵ 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.⁶
 - 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.

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*

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

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

Other members, can be co-opted 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.