

Campus Development and Environment Committee (CDEC)

2011-2012 Final Report

The membership of the 2011-2012 CDEC was comprised of the following individuals, whose contributions are gratefully acknowledged:

- *ex officio*: Richard Fekel, Siraj Kahn, Terry Stollsteimer
- faculty: Claude Baillargeon (chairperson), Lizabeth Barclay, Annie Gilson, Jennifer Heisler, Michael Long
- administrative professionals: Dan Bettmann, Kelly Garnett, Steve Meyer, Rueben Ternes
- students: Michelle Alwardt, Darias Thompson, Emily Tissot, Maxwell Van Raaphorst
- regular guest: Steve Zmich

Formal meetings, for which minutes were taken and forwarded to the University Senate, were held on Oct. 3, Oct. 31, Nov. 21, Jan. 30, and March 5. In addition, three sets of issues that arose after the end of the winter semester were addressed via virtual meetings and email round-robin.

Agendas for the meetings were drafted in collaboration with Vice President for Facilities Management Terry Stollsteimer. In accordance with its mandate, the CDEC reviewed a number of proposals with potential impact upon the physical maintenance and development of the Oakland campus. Among them, two issues proved of particular concern to the committee.

Impact of proposed new student housing on sheep barn

The impact of a proposed student housing facility on the existing sheep barn, located on the northern edge of parking lot P-5, was discussed at the request of Richard Stamps, associate professor of anthropology. Following a visit to the site to view the sheep barn firsthand, the committee invited Jim Zentmeyer, Director of University Housing, and Geoff Upward, Executive Director of Meadow Brook Hall, to share their respective perspectives with the committee. The ensuing deliberations yielded two motions that were passed by the committee:

1. "Do not tear down the sheep barn. Do all we can to preserve it for use."
2. "Relocate the sheep barn to enhance the historical value of Meadowbrook Hall with pending judgments of incoming architectural plans submitted by architects for new housing developments."

Minutes of the committee's deliberations were forwarded to President Russi, along with the following recommendation: "It is the committee's view that the Sheep Barn is a historical structure worth preserving. The committee also recommends that the barn be moved to the east campus, where it could be put to good use by the Meadow Brook Hall as part of a cluster of historical structures reflecting Oakland's agrarian heritage."

Safety of proposed crosswalk linking the new Human Health Building to Bear Lake

The committee expressed concerns about the safety of the proposed crosswalk bisecting Meadow Brook Road in to the sharp curve separating the new Human Health Building from the main campus. This

crosswalk is part of the proposed pedestrian walkway connecting the Human Health Building to the Bear Lake area. To help in its deliberations, the committee sought the advice of Police Chief Sam Lucido, who delegated Lt. Mel Gilroy to meet with the committee.

The ensuing discussion led to the following motion, which passed unanimously: “Given the increase in pedestrian traffic due to the Human Health Building, the Campus Development and Environment Committee recommends that Facilities Management strongly considers the use of signage in the middle of the crosswalk on Meadowbrook Road in addition to the options already under consideration such as speed bumps, lights, inclines, different paving, graphics, etc.”

Other proposals and status updates reviewed by the committee

Throughout the year, the CDEC favorably reviewed the following proposals and status updates:

- New Club House for Golf Course
- Possible locations for new Engineering Building
- Revamping Elliott Hall south entrance and adjacent commons area
- Drainage repairs and related improvements around campus
- Construction of pole barn next to Grizzly University Storage (GUS) structure
- Repurposing of Observatory
- Reactivation of Kettering Magnetism Lab
- New Communication Arts/Media/Performance Center
- New pull offs, informational kiosks, and lighting improvements for campus roadways
- Wind mill and biomass facilities (status update)
- O’Dowd Hall renovations
- Parking improvements and anticipated road repairs
- Call for submissions of artworks for Human Health Building (status update)
- Selection of CDEC representatives to the Traffic Improvement Committee
- New outside stairway for Wilson Hall
- Scheduled roof repairs (status update)
- New signage for main entrance to campus
- Replacement of pedestrian bridge between GUS and Buildings and Grounds
- Assigning westernmost chicken coop to the Campus Student Organic Farm
- Relocating Danny’s Cabin to the clearing below Knoke Cottage

A preliminary proposal for new signage for the East Campus/Meadow Brook Estate was also reviewed by the CDEC. Concerns about this proposal were raised by the committee on two fronts:

1. The proposed signs for the “Meadow Brook Estate” did not incorporate any reference to Oakland University or its campus.
2. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of community consultation regarding the rebranding/renaming of the East Campus as the “Meadow Brook Estate.”

Although the current membership of the CDEC played no part in the Meadow Brook Hall designation as a National Historic Landmark, the committee applauds the welcomed news, which President Russi announced to the community on March 7, 2012.

Respectfully submitted by Claude Baillargeon, chairperson.