Annual Report of the Campus Planning and Development Committee: 2016-17

The Campus Planning and Development Committee met four times during the year, October 13, December 1, and March 8, and April 28. The December and April meetings were held with just faculty and students. We continued to implement a procedure for the committee developed in 2015-2016, wherein the committee requested a detailed briefing from Linda Snyder, Vice President of Operations, and Lois Stanley, Director of Campus Planning, for circulation ahead of the meeting. That allowed committee members to review the documents before the meeting, so that the meeting time could be used more efficiently for questions and general discussion.

The Committee continued to explore ways to develop and codify additional procedures to better fulfill the Bylaw requirements that the Committee “consider and offer response to all comprehensive campus plans and acquisitions and to the programming, planning, siting, and architectural character of new buildings, additions, and renovations”. The Committee felt that the Bylaws fail to outline any specific procedure to accommodate that. Therefore, after deliberating internally and consulting several members of the Tufts administration, including the Deans of A&S and Engineering as well as the Vice President of Operations and the Director of Campus Planning, CPDC developed a resolution and brought it to the Executive Committee. After further discussions between the Executive Committee and CPDC, a final version of the resolution was presented at an AS&E Faculty Meeting on February 8. The resolution sought the support of the AS&E faculty to codify a new set of procedures for campus planning. With these new steps, CPDC serves as a better venue for collaboration with the administration: the Committee becomes the place where the administration communicates plans and development projects and where CPDC can offer meaningful response. The steps outlined in the resolution are:

1) At the beginning of every semester, the Vice President of Operations will deliver a written summary of all upcoming planning and major development efforts on the Medford Campus to the Chair of CPDC and could request agenda items for the next CPDC meeting.

2) CPDC members will consider those plans and development projects and then articulate for each a set of principles that reflect the concerns and aspirations of the AS&E faculty.

3) CPDC will share those principles with the AS&E faculty and the administration through announcements at faculty meetings and the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty’s website. It is the expectation of the CPDC that those principles will inform the administration’s planning and development efforts.

By a unanimous voice vote, the AS&E Faculty endorsed the above procedures, directing the Secretary of the Faculty to include them in the description of the committee’s functions.
These new procedures were followed in the remaining meetings of the CPDC, resulting in principles for several key campus planning and development projects either underway or on the horizon. During the April AS&E Faculty meeting, Dean James Glaser spoke positively about the improvements in the CPDC procedures, how the principles are quite useful in guiding the work that Project Sponsor Groups do, and lauded the Committee’s efforts.

Here are the current principles adopted by the CPDC:

Dana-Barnum Reuse:
- Create coherent thematic academic environment
- Preserve large teaching spaces
- Meet pressing university space needs
- Create flexibility elsewhere with additional teaching spaces
- Deal with pressing facility condition needs (as in high cost to preserve Lincoln Filene for Tisch College)
- Preservation of the historic qualities of the exterior architecture
- Meeting/study space for students

Houston/Miller Renovation:
- Ensure that the modest addition to the center of the fronts of the two buildings are designed to enhance the pedestrian experience along those two roads/paths parallel to the Rez Quad
- Addition of study spaces with common space

Villages Concept:
- Preserve historic facades and neighborhood-feel of village, minimize Tufts signage.
- Walnut Hill should continue its acquisition program off-campus, to make-up for units that upperclassman will displace
- Provide opportunities for married graduate students to serve as dorm parents/RAs within these villages
- Ensure that any displacement that results does not interfere with transitional housing opportunities for faculty
- For faculty who are displaced, efforts should be made for Walnut Hill to accommodate them in another residence in the same school district (if requested by the faculty member).

Cummings Building at intersection of Boston and College Ave. (aka Terra Firma):
- Dedicated event space
- Pedestrian access and orientation should be prioritized
- Close attention to the design of the street wall along College Avenue
- No bars/detail on the windows to make it look prison-like
- Make the building a node for connecting the Tufts campuses, providing facilities to support that (e.g. touch-down space)
- Get affected departments involved early in planning discussions

New Dorm:
- Siting, design, and programming should be based on extensive student and faculty input
- The addition of this new space should either directly or indirectly result in additional graduate student, post-doc, and faculty housing either on or near campus
- The new dorm should accommodate a faculty residence, along the lines of “house” residential systems at many Ivy League universities

For the Committee: Justin Hollander (UEP) and Juliet Fuhrman (Biology)

**Faculty Members:**
- Clay Bennett, Chemistry
- Anne DeLaire Mulgrew Romance Languages
- David Henry Feldman, Child Development
Hugh Gallagher, Physics and Astronomy
Anna Hardman, Economics
William Messner, Mechanical Engineering
John Mulligan, Drama and Dance
Rebecca Scheck, Chemistry
Donna Slonim, Computer Science
Sigrun Svavarsdottir, Philosophy
Reed Ueda, History

**Student Members:**
Austin Brush
Gauri Seth
Jeremy Wachter

**Ex Officio Members:**
Jinmin Qu, School of Engineering
James Glaser, Dean, A&S
Yolanda King, Dir/Residential Life
Mary Pat McMahon, Dean/Student Affairs
Barbara Rubel, Dir/Community Relations
Scott Sahagian, A&S
James Sarazen, Engineering
Linda Snyder, Operations
Lois Stanley, Campus Planning