September 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul Nash, Chair Aesthetics Committee

FROM: Doug Dykstra, Chancellor
       Gus Cobb-Adams, Chair Ke Kumu Pali
       Brian Kashiwaeda, Director Facilities Planning Office UHCC
       Cliff Togo, Vice Chancellor Administrative Services
       Kalawaia Moore, Title III Renovation Grant P.I.

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations re Hale A’o Design

Mahalo for the committee’s memo of 8/18/11 regarding design features for Hale A’o. After discussions with the architects assigned to the project, feedback from the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) officer, and a review of your committee’s recommendations by Ke Kumu Pali we are all grateful for the suggestions. The majority of the recommendations will enhance the building design and promote features reminiscent of the original Hale A’o as well as integrate the structure with the existing campus buildings. As we all know Hale A’o is itself a historic structure protected by SHPD regulations and oversight hence the significance of that agency’s input to decisions related to structures that will be connected to the original building. Finally my own principles as an observer and as a participant in the decision making process for this building seek to maintain the balance between aesthetic considerations and the functional purpose of the structure.

After receiving all the input from the foregoing sources, I hope my decision will satisfy your committee that all of its directives concerning features that “should” be incorporated; and most of the committee’s recommendations concerning features that “could” be incorporated have been honored. To that end:

- The pitch of the roof on the new structures can replicate the pitch of the original Hale A’o.
- Asphalt shingles matching the shingles on Hale A’o can also be utilized on the new structures.
- Arched entry framing over the mauka facing main sliding-door windows can be added in keeping with the Urban Design Plan, p.23 “Emphasize main entrances...(U)se arched entries where appropriate.”
Hale A'o Design Decision

- Grille work matching the motif on other campus buildings will be added in keeping with the Urban Design Plan, p. 25 guideline to “Keep ornamentation simple and appropriate to scale and design of the building.”
- Hale A'o and its attached building will be painted “...beige and/or light earth tones to match the character of existing buildings” as called for in the Urban Design Plan, p. 25.
- Finally, relief from a continuous façade is already a feature of the structures as viewed from the mauka facing façade.

Aspects of the recommendations that cannot be accommodated include:

- The addition of a lanai along the mauka facing façade because this would reduce the size of the classrooms planned for the building and/or the size of a breezeway or piko center between the two new structures. The piko center must remain sizable enough to hold open air meetings. Moreover, the piko center is planned to be connected by a covered walkway to the original Hale A'o to provide “...covered arcades or colonnaded walkways for weather protection and design continuity with existing buildings,” Urban Design Plan, p. 23.
- Multi-colored red tile roofing material on a portion of the Kahuku-side of the structure would be unacceptable to the SHPD officer insofar as it would be incompatible with design features of the historically protected Hale A'o structure.

Notwithstanding the features which cannot be supported the more numerous features of design that are acceptable will substantially improve the attractiveness of the structure. This is particularly the case with respect to the arched entry framing over the main entrances of the structure which significantly improves the appearance. Mahalo for the committee's recommendations and for having held an open and vigorous public discussion of the issues.