Aesthetics Committee Meeting
November 18, 2011
‘Imiloa Rm #122

Members present: Tom Holowach, Peggy Regentine, Jeff Hunt, Roy Fujimoto, Floyd McCoy, Joe Ciotti, Bonnie Beatson and Paul Nash

Guest: Angie Westfall from the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD)

Meeting started at 1:05 pm.

Agenda Items:
1. Update on the interior design of La‘akea Building and No‘eau Building.
2. Update on draft process review for any kind of construction project on campus.
4. Update on fire lane turnaround at bottom of Pālanakila Building.
5. Interior of Mana‘opono Building.

Agenda Items Completed:

1. Update on design of La‘akea and No‘eau:

Angie Westfall, the Architectural Branch Chief for the State Historic Preservation Division was present to give her input as well as to explain her directive from the college.

Each of the two buildings above had alternate design plans with and without verandas. Westfall was prepared to discuss the design without verandas as she had been told by administration this was the college’s choice. They had been told that the new occupiers for the buildings were concerned that vandalism and the homeless would be problems with open verandas and that the department occupying the building did not want open offices. (Note: there are open areas in most of the other campus buildings and there are no
homeless problems or vandalism; this point was never presented at the meeting presenting the two design options). Also the enclosed area would allow for 3 more offices than with verandas. Therefore the decision to enclose and not have verandas was made by Clifford Togo, and then his recommendation was passed on to Doug Dykstra.

The Aesthetics Committee has become concerned, as they believe that the administration should involve the Aesthetics Committee in this type of decision-making. A list 10 or more renovation projects that have occurred on campus without consultation with the Aesthetics Committee was distributed showing various negative results associated with each project.

Bottom Line for No‘eau and La‘akea:

Because construction will begin in June, these buildings will probably be designed without verandas. One of the faculty members on the Aesthetics Committee, who will be occupying No‘eau, stated that this was debated previously that his department decided to enclose No‘eau’s veranda.

Westfall stated several pertinent points:

1. WCC doesn’t follow the rules correctly for improvements. She stated that often a letter is written and the letter itself is not proper documentation for historical decisions and changes.

2. WCC needs Campus Design Guidelines or Planning documents for change.

3. Jeff Hunt stated that long-standing planning documents do exist and referred Westfall the PRU and UDP and mitigation measures previous developed through negotiations with SHPD. While there are no specific directives for the historic buildings, the PRU and UDP are based, in part, on the design features of the original buildings, and that renovations should be consistent with the PRU and UDP (see the Urban Design Guidelines, which on p. 15 states “The design concept for campus architecture calls for the continuation of the present architectural character for new and existing buildings to be renovated.”) reference: http://windward.hawaii.edu/planning/documents/1995/urbandesignplan.pdf

4. WCC does a better job with new buildings than with renovations (and renovations are the priority now).

5. SHPD is against the creating a “Parking lot over Paradise”.

6. SHPD sees a need for multi-level parking structures to satisfy the parking issue, not the great lawn. Jeff Hunt pointed out a parking structure would not be consistent with C&C agriculture-zoned areas and PRU, and past comments from the Kāne‘ohe Neighborhood Board. (Note: there has never been any plan to use the great lawn for parking.)

7. SHPD is primarily concerned with the preservation of the exteriors of the historic buildings, including Hale A‘o.

Angie Westfall was grateful that the committee was so interested in advocating for the preservation of the campus.

Paul Nash informed the committee that he had met with Chancellor Doug Dykstra on November 17th to discuss the process of the Master Planning and Space Allocation Committee, chaired by Clifford Togo, Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services, and the Aesthetics Committee, chaired by Paul Nash.

At that meeting Paul pointed out to Doug that the directives for MapSac were incomplete and that any decision made by MapSac should be referred back to the Aesthetics Committee for review before Clifford makes a decision to Doug.

Paul also asserted that Clifford should also consult with the Aesthetics Committee Chair before making a recommendation to Doug.

Doug agreed that the chair of the Aesthetics Committee should have been involved at the end of the review process and that he will look into the directives of MapSac to update and correct the directives on the college’s web site. (Note: The directives for all committees are under Governance on the main page on the college’s web site.) Doug also stated that the chair of the Aesthetics Committee should feel free to contact Clifford or himself to check on the development process for any project in the future.

2. Brief discussion focused on a Conceptual Flow Chart that outlines the process for review and approval of a renovation or new construction project on campus. Among the various steps shown in this chart is the creation of educational specifications for a project, input from MapSac is then supposed go back to the Aesthetics Committee for review.
Jeff Hunt and Paul Nash are working on this chart, which will be given to Doug for review when the draft is completed sometime next semester.

The committee also discussed the possibility of expanding the scope and objectives of the Aesthetics Committee and renaming the committee as the Aesthetics and Project Review Committee.

The Aesthetics Committee strongly recommended that the spring convocation would be a good setting for an open forum for discussion on developing of a new master plan for the college’s future.

It was agreed that Doug Dykstra should be asked to attend our next Aesthetics Committee meeting on December 16th to discuss the above issues.

3. Proposed rain garden at ‘Imiloa. Paul informed Floyd McCoy that no one on the Aesthetics Committee had any objections about the idea and that it should be presented to the Master Planning and Space Allocation Committee to start the process.

4. The concern about debris along the fire lane turnaround in front of Pālanakila Building had been directed to Clifford Togo. This matter seems to have been addressed and the turnaround currently is clear of debris.

5. Manaʻopono Building. Paul did a walk through of the interior of the building and he was very disappointed to see unnecessary dropped ceilings inside the rooms of the building, taking away from the beauty of the historical interior. Hopefully the college will be able to install the appropriate historically roof on the exterior of the building and mount the building name in front of the building in the future.

Meeting ended at 2:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Peggy Regentine and Paul Nash

Date of next meeting: Friday, December 16th at 1 pm ‘Imiloa Rm # 122