Aesthetics Committee Meeting
Friday March 27, 2015
10 AM, Palanakila 117

Meeting came to order at 10:00 AM

Members Present: Lillian Cunningham, Carol Cunha, Charles Whitten, Paul Nash, Kanoe Nakata (ASUH), Floyd McCoy, Laura Sue, Roy Fujimoto, Jeff Hunt, Kevin Ishida, Ryan Koo.

Visitors: Chancellor Doug Dykstra, Donita Garcia (ASUH)

Agenda:

1. Dialogue with Chancellor Doug Dykstra: Update on Master Plan, boundary lines, back of college, (Iolani Building) and the different programs in that building, increasing parking spaces, sidewalks, and facilities.
2. Creating a sub-committee to dialogue with legislators for support to the final phase of the campus new master plan.
3. Approve February Minutes.

Discussion:

1. Dialogues with Chancellor Doug Dykstra:

Doug began by thanking the committee for our continued commitment to maintaining the aesthetic quality of WCC’s campus.

Boundary Lines (smoking):

Doug continued with a short explanation on the ongoing debate regarding the boundary lines and WCC’s smokers (WCC students, faculty, and staff) as well as the boundary line issue of smoking on our campus from state hospital. As for the smoking policy, the labor union pushed the administration to temporarily change WCC’s current smoking policy to align with state law regarding smoking. Results from the campus-wide forum on smoking policy still pending.

Boundary State hospital:

The administrators of state hospital are reported to be cooperative regarding the committee’s proposal to build a barrier, either a wall, a hedge, or both, to create a more stable and reliable physical boundary line between WCC’s campus and the state hospital. This would be mutually beneficial to both sides. If the proposed barrier does go through, the state hospital would only have to monitor two different entry/exit lanes, instead of the current wide-open system. If approved, this would help them monitor the “elopements” (i.e. escape) of patients. The hospital’s main security issues involve the forensic patients and seem to agree that the proposed barrier would be a mutual beneficial construction project. Doug also mentioned that the
funding for the construction of said barrier would necessarily come from WCC’s budget, not from the state hospital.

Doug also explained that the State Hospital, Architects Hawaii (the architectural firm in charge of design), Representative Jill Tokuda provided funds for plans for a forensic system more akin to a prison to replace some of the interior walls and fences within the state hospital. The committee agreed that all of these plans were beneficial to the safety, security, and aesthetic concerns of the campus and hospital.

Boundary Lines: Great Lawn, Bishop Hall, and Hakipu’u:

For a number of years WCC and the State Hospital have been in dialogue regarding a large section of the Great Lawn and Bishop Hall. WCC hoped that it could have access to these areas (currently within the boundary lines of the State Hospital) for academic purposes of the college (or institutions linked to the college, i.e. Hakipu’u). Representatives Ken Ito and Jill Tokuda recently met with administrators from the State Hospital, DLNR (Department of Land and Natural Resources), and Department of Health. The Department of Health acquired the necessary permits (including approval from the State Historical Preservation), and sadly Hakipu’u did not get the rights or approval for their continued use of this land, and therefore the plan is now to tear up the Great Lawn and knock down Bishop Hall in order to build a long-term health care facility for the needs of the state (in conjunction with Avalon Health Care). The old plan to expand Hakipu'u in the Great Lawn and Bishop Hall did not go through, including the WCC’s proposal to use the portable classrooms and this area of lawn (since almost 100% of Hakipuu graduates use our Running Start program) for educational purposes.

Boundary Lines: Hale ‘Iolani and the Maintenance Facilities:

Doug explained that the only remaining boundary line issue regards WCC’s use of ‘Iolani Building and the state hospital’s use of the storage facilities (across from Hale Imiloa). Doug explained that the “feeling” (as no official decision has been made) is that the hospital is willing to redraw these lines to pass ‘Iolani to our campus and give storage facilities to the state hospital (with exception of WCC’s continued access to the golf course and use of some of the storage areas for the college needs. (Agricultural Technician, etc.).

As for the much needed repairs to Hale ‘Iolani? As of now, WCC does not have funds for the repairs, and no large scale renovation of the building can proceed until the boundary lines are redrawn and ‘Iolani is officially incorporated into WCC’s boundary lines.

Charles Whitten inquired about the possibly to give ‘Iolani back to hospital and transform the storage sheds into dual-purpose parking and instructional facility. Doug has been thinking about a Fine Arts Visual Arts degree, either turning ‘Iolani or the maintenance sheds into something that fits our future needs.

However, the Board of Regents currently has in place an indefinite moratorium on the construction of new buildings on any UH “system campus; therefore no new” construction will be approved until the UH system’s current repair and maintenance needs are met, so this includes
the building of new parking facility/classrooms. Conclusion: the moratorium strikes down any proposal to transform the storage-shed area into a usable space for the campus.

WCC’s Current Open Spaces for Possible Future Facilities:

As Doug looked through KYA plans, there are as of now no plans for the use of WCC’s open spaces. The committee stressed our desire to modify the current master plan to include possible future plans for these open spaces. For example: what will happen with 4 acres of unused “forested” lands below main campus? For example: The “gardens” below Hale A‘o are not technically ours (although used by us). Kevin brought up budget concerns to make this legal and ADA (American Disability Act) compliant, so this space is sort of in limbo.

2. Creation of Subcommittee for MaPSAC committee:

The committee discussed in earlier meetings the possibility of creating a subcommittee of the MaPSAC committee to spearhead changes to the Master Plan. Doug mentioned issues regarding the recent legislative shift towards “lump-sum budgeting” and how this new direction from DNLR might enable WCC to take advantage and perhaps acquire approval for new funds and construction. The hope is to bring long-range plan to local legislators (like what was done when initiating the library’s construction proposal).

Status of Master Plan: It is almost in the final stages, but Kevin, Doug, and Jeff also met to include more designs in the master plan (i.e. plans for unused spaces). ASUH student representative Kanoe raised concerns about the absence of student voices in the development of the master plan. Kevin did say that a last-minute survey was sent out to students a few years back when the first stages of the master plan were put together. Paul Nash believes that the college newspaper (Ka Ohana) has done articles in the past about the master plan. Kanoe suggested providing students with another more inclusive survey in April.

WCC’s Child Care Facility:

Proposed plan for childcare facility was initially set for the far end of the cafeteria, but the gasses/exhaust cooling tower created a health concern and ultimately did not fit the needs or health care concerns for the campus. Therefore the new plan shifted the proposed site for day care facility to the opposite end of Akoakoa, rooms 107/109 which is used as meeting rooms for the faculty and community.

3. Approval of February Minutes: Paul Nash made the motion, Ryan Koo seconded. Minutes Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

Minutes by Ryan Koo
Aesthetics Chair: Paul Nash