ANNUAL REPORT

Campus Environment Committee,
2005–2006

May 14, 2006
ANNUAL REPORT

Campus Environment Committee,
2005–2006

CONTENTS

1 – Summary and Accomplishments, 2005–2006

2 – Meeting Notes and Handouts

3 – Proposals and Recommendations

4 – List of Members
1 – Summary and Accomplishments, 2005–06

On February 1, 2006 Chancellor Denise Konan charged this Committee with the responsibility to exercise stewardship over and make proposals for the spaces between buildings, promote a livable environment, and advance a Hawaiian sense of place on the Manoa Campus.

The Committee met monthly, and after discussing several possible areas on which to focus attention, decided for this year to concentrate on one “signature” upgrade of a space. The “signature” subcommittee recommended a modest renovation and major replanting of Varney Circle as a visible and influential contribution to the Centennial celebrations.

Other activities and proposals in process include upgrading of the pedestrian walkway between the dormitory complex and varsity gate, upgrade of the varsity grade area, and alterations to campus lights and signs (and adjacent street light standards) to include festive banners to celebrate the centennial year of 2007.

2 – Meeting Notes and Handouts

Committee members were given an initial background briefing package which includes the 2003 Campus Walkway Study, student design proposals for the Centennial, draft discussion about design standards to reinforce a Hawaiian sense of place, and prior recommendations of the campus Landscape Committee. At several meetings, various members made presentations of landscape, signage, gateways, and spaces on campuses around the world.

An agenda for the year was discussed and agreed upon at the first meeting (February 1), which emphasized a focus on enhancement of the campus for the Centennial year, signage, and definition of guidelines for space design on the campus. The Committee also agreed unanimously to instruct the Chairman to send a memo to the Chancellor asking that the proposed electrical transmitter wing on Hamilton Library be reconsidered.
At the second meeting (March 1) a subcommittee was appointed to propose options for an impact project which could be a contribution to the Centennial. The role of the Committee as a provider of input and review for the ongoing update of the LRDP was discussed. Momi Cazamero described some campuses she had recently visited with exceptional spaces and landscape.

On March 20, Joanne Clark of the Chancellor’s office outlined Centennial preparations, and encouraged the Committee to pursue the idea of a “signature” project which could be accomplished by Earth Day. Appointment of Janet Gillmar as campus landscape architect was announced. The Chancellor’s request for an emphasis on student comfort, safety, and livability in the Makai Campus was discussed and made an agenda item for future meetings. Pamela Tse made a slide presentation of exceptional campus spaces and gateways in Hong Kong and elsewhere.

On April 6 the Committee met again, and the “Signature” piece subcommittee presented the proposals which have come out of their meetings, with the principal recommendation being to plant a grove of mixed palm trees with the potential for strong visual impact.

A special event took place on April 10, as the Committee was invited to a special showing of “shoebox art” at the Campus Gallery. This was especially interesting as many of the sculptural ideas would have relevance as large art-in-the-landscape pieces.

The last meeting of the school year was held on May 4. The Committee unanimously agreed that the original Group 70 proposal for Varney Plaza, as illustrated in the 1994 LRDP, was over-dominated by hardscape, and more permeable surfaces should be shown in the LRDP update. The “Signature” subcommittee is preparing a detailed proposal for modifying the Varney Circle area, as indicated below, which will be presented in detail to the Chancellor this summer (including a budget and schedule).
Varney Circle 2006

Proposed Varney Circle 2007

Campus Environment Committee 5/3/06
A committee is being formed to include several members of this committee (Adams, Gillmar) and Jan Yokota of System Capital Improvements office, and Darryl Wong of the Moili’ili Improvement Association, to prepare improvements to Varsity Gate. This committee will be charged to have the improvements in place by Earth Day 2007.

The Committee also discussed the fact that the LRDP Update contract currently has no provision for a significant Landscape Master Plan. A recommendation for a near–future project to prepare such a plan will be forwarded to the Chancellor.

The Committee discussed the recent problems of graffiti, skateboards, proliferating “temporary” signage, and other unsightly elements in the campus landscape. They were heartened to hear from Roxanne Adams that there is a “rapid response” team, including Captain Dawson and other buildings and grounds staff, in formation.

3 – Proposals and Recommendations

During the summer, Committee members who are on campus, and staff of the Campus Planning Office, will:

a) Prepare a formal proposal to the Chancellor to reconfigure the curbing, alter the paving, and increase permeable area at Varney Circle. The proposal will include a detailed planting, lighting, and signage plan to make the area more pedestrian friendly as well as a palm grove of potentially international significance;

b) Prepare a budget proposal and draft request–for–proposals leading to the engagement of a nationally recognized Landscape Architect to prepare a Manoa Campus Master Landscape Plan;

c) Prepare background material as the basis for drafting a proposal and request–for–proposals leading to the engagement of (probably local but) nationally recognized signage and information consultant to look at
visual information delivery on the whole campus. There was a modest beginning toward this end in the 1987 LRDP;

d) Provide support to the Dorm–Varsity Gate–Moili’ili walkway planning Committee and staff.

“Rainbow Walk” Student Project, Spring 2006.

(Visitors included representatives of Moili’ili merchants group, Moili’ili Community Center, and Manoa Neighborhood, as well as Jan Yokota of Capital Improvements Office.)
Active Members (continuing 2006–2007)

Jack Sidener, Chair, Campus Planner/School of Architecture  
Roxanne Adams, Landscape Manager  
Momi Cazamero, Regent Emeritus  
Janet Gillmar, Campus Landscape Architect  
Wally Gretz, Campus Planning Office  
Demont Hansen, GRA, SOEST  
David Swift, Professor, Sociology  
Mike Thune, ASUH representative

Inactive Members

Karl Kim, Chair, Urban and Regional Planning  
Courtlin Holt  
Pualeilani Santos, Center for Hawaiian Studies (replaced by Pomaimkai Kaniaoupio–Crozier)  
Klobe, Tom (has not yet accepted appointment)

Ex Post Facto Members

Denise Konan, Chancellor  
Kathy Cutshaw, Interim Vice Chancellor  
Pamela Tse, Graduate Assistant, Campus Planning Office  
Karen Wang, Graduate Assistant, Campus Planning Office