



School of Architecture
Architecture Faculty Senate Response to the Suggestions of the Manoa Budget Committee

September 28, 2020

Submitted to: David Lassner, President
Michael Bruno, Provost
Manoa Budget Committee

We realize these are challenging times and wish to contribute to addressing the challenges we as a community and University currently face. The following summary represents an initial School of Architecture (SoA) faculty response to the Budget Committee suggestions, submitted in addition to interim Dean Chapman's previously submitted response.

Background

The Manoa Budget Committee's suggestions acknowledge that the proposal to move the SoA under the School of Engineering will result in "concern and resistance among some". This is likely in recognition of previous explorations of a merger, which was ultimately opposed by the Architecture Faculty Senate (AFS), among others. Details of our concerns at that time were articulated in a letter to the Provost, formerly Interim Vice Chancellor, on May 15, 2017 (attached). While many of our concerns about such a merger remain unchanged, we would like to address the proposals by the Budget Committee.

Manoa Budget Committee Suggestion:

"Combine the School of Architecture within the College of Engineering"

The SoA is open to all good-faith conversations and fully supports strategizing on ways to support and strengthen the School and University through the process of shared governance. The SoA also recognizes that there are contractual procedures in place including the Employers Duty to Consult with the exclusive bargaining representative (UHPA) in addition to academic consultation (as discussed at the recent Manoa Senate meeting, September 16, 2020).

With that in mind, it would be helpful to have more information regarding the renewed proposal from the Budget Committee:

1. What are the goals of the merger, and how does the proposed realignment achieve them?
2. What are the specific academic and administrative implications to the SoA? How does the Manoa Budget Committee see this reorganization impacting SoA programs, students, faculty, and staff?

Engineering

The Engineering Unit Response letter indicates that they have had discussions with architects and members of the SoA arch advisory board and “for the most part, have found many to be supportive”. The AFS was surprised these conversations have taken place after formal discussions with the SoA were halted in Fall 2017. We also believe this perceived support for re-alignment is largely incorrect. We engage with many members of our architecture and landscape architecture community (including professionals, alumni, and students) on a regular basis and find there is little support for such a reorganization. Further, the national accrediting body for our Doctor of Architecture degree, the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), advocates strongly for architecture school administrative autonomy and independence.

The SoA currently has several positive and exciting teaching and research collaborations with Engineering and our independent units do not prevent collaboration.

Manoa Budget Committee Suggestion:

“Collaborate with Civil Engineering on joint hire to support Architecture and Construction Engineering programs.”

The SoA currently has a joint faculty position with Engineering, which was developed and filled two years ago. A program merger is not required for joint faculty positions.

Engineering, in its Unit Response letter, indicates that their priorities for hiring are in “structure engineering and construction engineering” and that such a position would “interface” with the School of Architecture. The School of Architecture has also identified faculty needs (due to retirements and the recent elimination of vacant positions) which are in the areas of Design, Professional Practice, and a permanent position for the director of our University of Hawai‘i Community Design Center (UHCDC). We have also been waiting three years for the University to allow us to begin the search for a permanent dean.

Manoa Budget Committee Suggestion:

“Move the Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from American Studies to the School of Architecture”

This proposal was not part of past conversations with AFS, and the AFS requests more information in order to address the proposal.

Program Missions and Professional Alignment:

All UH units share a common vision and core values. At the same time, the School of Architecture has a distinctly different mission and vision from Engineering. At the School of Architecture, our academic and professional focus is on *design, place, people, culture, the environment*, while the College of Engineering and its departments' expressed Mission Statements are largely technology and resources driven. It is also important to note the nature of the professional relationship between architects, landscape architects and engineers as interrelated but distinct. In order to clarify these hierarchical distinctions, the Mission Statements of the School of Architecture and the College of Engineering are included with this letter.

The School of Architecture is committed to working with all stakeholders to develop solutions to our shared and immediate challenges, including COVID-19 induced budget shortfalls. We also remain committed to developing organizational strategies and program development ideas which will strengthen the School and University over the long term. As we move forward together we propose exploring other reorganization and development ideas which maintain SoA administrative autonomy and enhance and grow our design programs with meaningful and lasting impact for the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

The SoA Architecture Faculty Senate

CC: William Chapman, Dean

School of Architecture Mission and Vision:

“The School of Architecture builds on our unique island context within the Hawai‘i, Asia, and Pacific region to promote design excellence, intellectual inquiry, creative problem solving, and multidisciplinary collaboration, with both local and global impact.”

School of Architecture Core Values & Guiding Principles:*Design.*

Excellence through good design undergirds all other aspects of our School; it goes beyond beauty and achieves social and environmental justice, making it impactful, resilient and durable.

Vision.

The exploration and production of good design requires the context of culture and place and an environment that supports risk taking, pushing beyond the status quo to create innovative responses to social and environmental requirements.

Relevance & Impact.

Our work and educational opportunities are tied to place, people, culture, community, and environment, with particular attention to our host culture in Hawai‘i and the Asia-Pacific region, maintaining a commitment of addressing the opportunities and requirements specific to our evolving context.

Multidisciplinary, Integrated Collaboration.

Our vision and design excellence are afforded greater depth when we draw on diverse skills and knowledge, which we synthesize in the context of culture and place.

College of Engineering Mission Statement:

“The College of Engineering at the University of Hawai‘i is dedicated to world-class education and research. We produce the entrepreneurial and innovative human and intellectual capital required to be competitive in an increasingly technological and global society. Through our graduates and our research, we provide people and discoveries to transform lives and to support vibrant, knowledge-based economies. We are inspired by the principles of sustainability and resilience, flavored by our unique island environment.”

Civil and Environmental Engineering:

“The mission of the CEE Department statement is to 1) educate civil engineers that meet the requirements of the profession, committed to life-long learning, and have the potential to be the future leaders of the profession; 2) create, develop, and disseminate new knowledge through high quality, innovative research; 3) provide service to various agencies of the State and Counties of Hawaii and the engineering community; and 4) provide leadership to the Civil Engineering profession in the Asia/Pacific Region.”

Mechanical Engineering:

“To provide quality education, research, and service to our graduates and prepare them for successful engineering and professional careers and leadership roles with lifelong learning and ethical conduct that will lead them to be engaged responsible citizens, engineers, and professionals in their community and the world.”