School of Architecture
Response to Post Pandemic Planning Committee’s
October 13/20 Suggestions

November 24, 2020

Bill Chapman, Interim Dean

Planning Committee Suggestions

- Continue discussions with the College of Engineering to determine whether a reorganization will innovate and strengthen programs and collaborations across Architecture and Engineering.
- Consider whether reorganization into a School of Architecture and Planning (within Social Sciences) will innovate and strengthen programs and collaborations across Architecture and Urban & Regional Planning.
- Consider whether reorganization into a School of Architecture, Art and Design (within CALL) will innovate and strengthen programs and collaborations across Architecture, Design, and Art & Art History.
- Move the Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from American Studies to the School of Architecture.
- Collaborate with Civil Engineering on joint hires to support Architecture and Construction Engineering programs.

Steps Taken

The School of Architecture (SoA) has been active in considering the various proposals and suggestions for its future. The SoA interim dean has continued to meet with the dean of the College of Engineering (Brennon Morioka) and has separate conversations with the deans of the College of Social Sciences (CSS) and the College of Arts, Languages and Letters (CALL). In addition, the interim dean has met with the broader architectural community, making presentations to the Hawai‘i Architecture Foundation (HAF), the school’s alumni association, and several other organizations. Former deans and the current dean of the School of Architecture also met separately with the provost.

The interim dean has also had regular meetings with faculty and staff members, both in combination and as separate groups. These have occurred on a weekly basis in order to keep both faculty and staff apprised of developments.

Representatives of the faculty, including all of the program directors and chair of the SoA faculty senate (AFS), met with representatives of CALL and CSS on October 29 and November 5, respectively. The Provost and other members of the planning committee also met separately with faculty and staff off the SoA on October 20. The interim dean has also
had separate telephone and Zoom meetings with members of CSS (including the chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning) and individual faculty members from CALL, including the Department of Art and Art History. On November 20, the interim dean hosted a “Zoom-treat” (remote retreat) for faculty and staff focused on areas of potential synergy across departments, schools and colleges.

**Meeting Outcomes**

**College of Engineering (CE)**

Dean Morioka served as a reviewer in the assessment of the SoA undergraduate BEnvD program, gaining important insights into the school. Interim dean Chapman and he have met on a nearly weekly basis to discuss common interests and possible collaborations.

Despite these efforts, the Architecture Faculty Senate (AFS) voted unanimously to oppose the merger with CE. There was also a consistent voice of opposition from the community. Dean Morioka expressed some concern about the response of his own faculty to a separate School of Architecture within the CE, explaining that the “other engineering departments” might object to Architecture having its own EM director. He still wished to move forward with the merger, seeing important future value to the close grouping of units.

Since the provost’s meeting with both deans on October 5, however, there appears to common agreement that the SoA would NOT be merging with CE. The alumni association and community organizations have expressed relief at this decision, as have the SoA faculty and staff members.

Deans Chapman and Morioka have spoken at length about the possibility of the development of a shared master’s degree in Construction or Project Management, to be housed in SoA. The SoA faculty and staff have expressed enthusiasm for this idea. Dean Morioka has also expressed an interest in an undergraduate degree in Construction management as well, to be housed either in CE or SoA.

**College of Social Sciences (CSS)**

Interim dean Chapman has had separate conversions with the Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP), with the director of the UH Disaster Preparedness Center and with Dean Denise Konan of CSS about possibilities for a merger of SoA and CSS. Dean Konan expressed a willingness to consider a separate, “semi-autonomous” School of Architecture within CSS and spoke of the newly created (or soon to be created) School of Communications as a model. She expressed an openness to the idea of a School of Architecture and Planning, cautioning that this would require buy-in by DURP faculty members. Both Chapman and Konan recognized the potential for multiple collaborations and shared synergies. Dean Konan also expressed an interest in the Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation Certificate.
Discussions with individual faculty members of DURP and other units in the CSS have indicated a reluctance for DURP to co-join with Architecture to form a separate School of Architecture and Planning. Accreditation issues were a major factor in this position, with DURP wishing to retain its direct link to a dean and not become a department within a school within a college.

Representatives from both CSS and SoA met together on November 5. The Provost and other members of the Post-Covid Planning Committee also participated in the meeting. Dean Konan was not able to attend, though associate dean Ross Sutherland was present. DURP representatives reasserted their opposition to becoming a single School of Architecture and Planning (or School of the Built Environment, or other similar name). Associate Dean Sutherland cautioned (as had the dean of the College of Engineering) that other departments might not easily accept a separate school within the college, especially a school with its own EM director.

All representatives expressed an interest in collaborations and remarked upon existing synergies between the two units. A possible Urban Design master’s program has been mentioned repeatedly.

**College of Arts, Languages and Literature (CALL)**

Representatives of CALL and SoA met, under the provost’s guidance, on October 29. This was an open and friendly meeting with open expressions of common interest among SoA and different units in CALL. Dean Arnade of CALL suggested a willingness to consider a separate “semi-autonomous” School of Architecture within CALL. He noted the existence of a School of Asian and Pacific Studies (SPAS) and efforts underway to create a School of the Arts. The Academy for Creative Media (ACM) was also mentioned as an example of a more autonomous unit within a larger college. Mari Yoshihara, Chair of the Department of American Studies, expressed the department’s willingness to transfer the Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation to the SoA, with the understanding there would be continued cooperation and shared courses.

Although it became apparent in the course of discussion that a larger “School of Architecture and the Arts” might be difficult to launch, Dean Arnade expressed an openness to the SoA continuing as a semi-autonomous unit within CALL.

Faculty and staff of the SoA have expressed support for becoming part of CALL, IF a merger is absolutely necessary. There is concern that there continue to be an EM leader (presently a dean, though possibly a “director” in the future). Dean Arnade has expressed a willingness to support an EM director.

SoA and CALL representatives all expressed an interest in future collaborations and noted existing points of common interest. ACM and SoA representatives appeared to have a number of ideas of future collaboration; there were also positive words from the Departments of Art and Art History and Graphics.
Subsequent meetings among faculty and staff of SoA have indicated enthusiasm for the school’s connection to other units in the arts. Faculty especially have expressed their feeling that CALL would better understand the field of Architecture and that the two units, especially the proposed School of the Arts, would have be able to collaborate in numerous ways. Most immediately, two SoA faculty members have expressed an interest in developing a joint master’s degree in Computational Design with ACM. The future of the Graduate Certificate Program in Historic Preservation—and the eventual development of a MS in Historic Preservation—would also be facilitated by close links with CALL.

One suggestion is that CALL could become CAALL to better recognize the special place of the SoA within the college.

**Responses to October 13/20 Suggestions**

- Continue discussions with the College of Engineering to determine whether a reorganization will innovate and strengthen programs and collaborations across Architecture and Engineering.

  This is ongoing and indicates several possible points of collaboration.

- Consider whether reorganization into a School of Architecture and Planning (within Social Sciences) will innovate and strengthen programs and collaborations across Architecture and Urban & Regional Planning.

  The Department of Urban and Regional Planning is opposed to joining in a single school within CSS. There are definitely possibilities for collaboration, including an Urban Design master’s degree already under consideration.

  As a whole, the CSS seems less receptive than does CALL to a quasi-independent School of Architecture within the college.

- Consider whether reorganization into a School of Architecture, Art and Design (within CALL) will innovate and strengthen programs and collaborations across Architecture, Design, and Art & Art History.

  SoA and other CALL units appear to have an overall philosophical and temperamental kinship. SoA faculty and staff members have expressed an openness to further collaborations across disciplines. These include especially Art and Art History but also Graphics, Fine Arts, and Theatre and the Academy for Creative Media.

  SoA faculty have repeated the concern that the school maintain a high profile and that an EM leader would be necessary to that status.
• Move the Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from American Studies to the School of Architecture.

  The Department of American Studies (AmSt) has discussed this move at a faculty meeting or meetings and is willing for the program to shift to SoA, with the understanding that AmSt continue to play a role in teaching.

  The SoA has not committed to taking on the Certificate Program. This would require agreement form the Architecture Faculty Senate (AFS). The possibility of assuming the certificate and developing a master’s program was presented and discussed at the virtual retreat on November 20.

• Collaborate with Civil Engineering on joint hires to support Architecture and Construction Engineering programs.

  SoA faculty and staff members are open to joint hires and supporting future collaborations and joint hires.

**Favored Scenarios (Revised)**

**Scenario One: Independent School of Architecture (Preferred)**

  Remain independent, at least for the near future. Faculty members have expressed an interest in a national search for a new EM dean once Covid restrictions on hiring are lifted.

  Over the next two years, the SoA would work at creating new collaborative degrees. The school is presently well into the planning and approval process for a MArch degree to allow students a shorter route to obtaining professional qualification. The BEnvD is also in its last stages of full approval. New degrees may include a master’s in Construction Management or Project Management; a professional degree in Urban Design; a master’s in Historic Preservation; a certificate or degree in Computational Design; and other degrees and certificates.

  SoA would begin immediately to create new programs, collaborating with CALL, CE and CSS. SoA would also continue to build on the success of the Community Design Center (UHCDC), possibly expanding into professional educational offerings and other innovative teaching directions.

**Scenario Two: A Separate School of Architecture in CALL**

  CALL seems most receptive to the special needs of the School of Architecture. Dean Arnade recognizes the importance of an EM director and is open to the idea of “semi-autonomy.” The professional community and alumni seem also more open to such a “collaborative joining” than to the earlier plan for a merger with CE. Some
faculty members are still opposed to any loss of status, and the Architecture Faculty Senate (AFS) has not discussed or voted on the proposal. Still, this seems to be the most acceptable second alternative.

If the AFS agrees, it would be possible to develop a master’s in Historic Preservation and other possible collaborative/joint degrees with ACM and/or Art and Art History.

**Scenario Three: A Separate School of Architecture in CSS**

Such a move would be comparable to that with CALL. CSS representatives appeared less enthusiastic about the potential merger than their counterparts in CALL. CSS has less experience with a separate school-within-a-college idea. There are probably fewer points of connection and possible collaboration than with CALL. Some SoA faculty and staff members have shown an openness to the idea of a CSS-SoA connection, but most appear to prefer working with CALL over CSS.