

Memo

Date: November 13, 2020
To: Faculty Senate
Texas A&M University
From: Jorge A. Vanegas
Dean, College of Architecture



Subject: Proposal for a Change in the Name of the Texas A&M College of Architecture

When a college and a department share the same name, as is the case between the *College of Architecture (COA)* and the *Department of Architecture (ARCH)* at *Texas A&M University (TAMU)* within the *Texas A&M University System (TAMUS)*, it can create confusion for prospective students and other constituents, and in addition, it does not convey the full diversity, breadth, and depth of scholarly activities across the College's other Departments: the *Department of Construction Science (COSC)*, the *Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (LAUP)*, and the *Department of Visualization (VIZA)*.

So, after the 50th Anniversary of the COA celebrated in 2019, and discussions with both President M. K. Young and Provost C. A. Fierke, the *College Leadership Team (CLT)* of the COA, which is composed of the Dean, the Associate and Assistant Deans, the Department Heads, and the Directors of key business units in the College, reached a consensus that it is time for the COA to adopt a name that is more inclusive of our many disciplines - similar to what other colleges at TAMU have done in recent years (e.g., the *College of Education & Human Development – CEHD*, and the *College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences – CVMBS*), and what some of the peers of our College have also done (e.g. the *Design School* at Arizona State University; the *College of Architecture, Planning, and Design* at Kansas State University; and the *College of Built Environments* at University of Washington). In addition, after being briefed on the COA CLT's decision, the *Council of Deans (COD)* at TAMU did not express any objections, and unanimously supported the proposal to change the name of the College. Finally, a name change will also enable ARCH, COSC, LAUP, and VIZA to further strengthen and enhance their respective disciplinary identities.

As background to this proposal, as the COA approached its 50th Anniversary, we explored quite seriously the possibility and opportunity of changing the College's name to reflect more accurately the full scope of the disciplines, departments, academic programs, and research and creative activities, which are embedded within our threefold academic mission of transformational learning and teaching; of research, creative work, and scholarship of discovery, integration, application, and teaching; and of engagement with practice and society through outreach and service. In doing so, we collected through two different surveys input and feedback from a diverse range of constituencies associated with the College regarding a possible name change: students, faculty, staff, advisory council members, and former students.

Although consensus was not achieved in either round of surveys, the majority of the College's current students, faculty and staff are in strong agreement about creating a new name that represents better the diversity of scholarly activities in the College, and consequently, we are formally proposing that the COA be renamed as the **Texas A&M College of the Built Environment (COBE)**, a modification from the originally proposed name of *Texas A&M College of the Natural, Built and Virtual Environment*, which was taken from the annual *College of Architecture Research Symposium (COARS)*, and which was critiqued for being too long. COARS is an event that brings all faculty and students in the College together in the spirit of interdisciplinary exchange, which, for more than 20 years, has highlighted the research and creative works of the College's community of scholars, and provides a centerpiece for the College's

strategic vision for interdisciplinarity interactions and collaborations within the full range of our academic mission. The proposed new name will be a new, yet familiar name that best represents our very diverse college.

Current College Composition

The COA at TAMU is currently composed of approximately:

- **173 Faculty Members** from a diverse range of disciplines – **85 Tenured/Tenure-Track (T/TT)** and **88 Academic Professional Track (APT)**;
- A total enrollment of **3,231 Students** – **2,768 Undergraduate Students** in six academic degree programs and **463 Graduate Students** in 10 graduate degree programs; and
- **70 Staff Members** – Administrative and Technical Staff.

The full scope at-a-glance of the COA includes the following key assets.

- (1) **4 Departments:**
The *Departments of Architecture* – ARCH, *Construction Science* – COSC, *Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning* – LAUP, and *Visualization* – VIZA;
- (2) **16 Academic Degree Programs:**
Undergraduate, Graduate, and Doctoral Programs, with 15 programs managed by ARCH, COSC, LAUP, and VIZA directly, and one managed by the College – *University Studies | Global Arts, Planning, Design & Construction Program*;
- (3) **5 Interdisciplinary Research Centers:**
The *Center for Health Systems and Design* – CHSD, the *Center for Heritage Conservation* – CHC, the *Center for Housing and Urban Development* – CHUD, the *CRS Center for Leadership and Management in the Design and Construction Industry* – CRS, and the *Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center* – HRRC;
- (4) **3 Institutes:**
The *Institute for Applied Creativity* – IAC, the *Institute for Sustainable Communities* – IfSC, which currently is a campus-wide effort under the Environmental Grand Challenge; and *Texas Institute for Technology Infused Learning* – TITIL, which also is a campus-wide multi-college effort;
- (5) **2 Special Programs:**
The *Colonias Program* – COLP, a legislative mandate from the State of Texas, and the *Texas Target Communities Program* – TTCP, which started in COA and now is a joint venture with the Office of *Public Partnership & Outreach* – PPO, in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President;
- (6) **4 Buildings** with full occupancy:
Langford Architecture Center, Buildings A, B, and C, and Francis Hall located at the TAMU campus
- (7) **3 Buildings** with partial occupancy:
Scoates Hall and the Emerging Technologies Building – ETB, both located at the TAMU campus in College Station, and COA North at the Perry Building in downtown Bryan;
- (8) **Several Laboratories** and **Research Groups:**
These units, located at the TAMU campus, address specific knowledge domains;
- (9) **2 Special Alliances:**
A research laboratory presence within the *Energy Systems Laboratory* – ESL (located at 7607 Eastmark Drive in College Station), and at the *Center for Infrastructure Renewal* – CIR (located at the Texas A&M System RELLIS Campus);

(10) 1 Woodshop and 1 Maker Space

These special use spaces are located at the TAMU campus in College Station;

(11) 1 Automated Fabrication and Design Laboratory:

This hands-on research/education/ demonstration facility is located on a 7-acre site and a 14,000 sq. ft. facility at the Texas A&M System RELLIS Campus; and

(12) Several Study Abroad Programs:

These programs are offered throughout the world, including programs in Italy, Spain, Germany, England, and special programs in various countries, and in addition, at the *TAMU Soltis Education* and Research Center in Costa Rica and the *Hacienda Santa Clara* in Mexico.

College History

Over a century ago, in June 1906, the first graduating class of Texas's first formal architectural education program received degrees from our institution (known then as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas) as part of Engineering.

In 1969 the Architecture Division broke ranks with Engineering and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design was formed. This move precipitated a great deal of change, and seven degrees were offered through five departments:

- Bachelor of Environmental Design;
- Master of Architecture;
- Bachelor of Science in Building Construction;
- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture;
- Master of Landscape Architecture;
- Master of Urban and Regional Planning; and
- Doctor of Environmental Design.

In 1988, the College changed its name from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design to the College of Architecture, and its legacy of achievement has grown to include more than 15,000 graduates including architects, construction professionals, landscape architects, planners, preservationists, visual artists, special effects wizards, and scholars.

How the College Has Changed: Academic Programs and Population

In its first 50 years, Texas' first architectural education program had grown from 10 to 317 students; from three graduates in the Class of 1906, to 65 members of the Class of 1956; and in the course of those first five decades, it had awarded a total of 953 degrees. That total has since grown to more than 15,000!

- In 1977, the Department of Building Construction established a Master's degree program in Building Construction.
- In 1981, a Master in Construction Management degree was introduced.
- In 1983, the Department of Building Construction changed its name to the Department of Construction Science.
- In 1985, a Master of Land Development degree was first offered.
- Also, in 1985, the Department of Environmental Design changed its name to the Department of Architecture.
- In 1986, two Ph.D. degrees were established, a Ph.D. in Architecture and a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Science, and the Doctor of Environmental Design program was dissolved.

- One year later, in 1989, the Master of Science in Visualization program was established, and a Master of Science in Architecture was created.
- In 1992, a Bachelor of Science in Construction Science was offered, and the Master of Architecture Career Change program was initiated.
- In 1992, Landscape Architecture and Urban and Regional Planning merged into the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning.
- In 2012, the Master of Fine Arts in Visualization program was established, and is unique in the State of Texas, and one of only a handful of programs of this kind in the United States.
- In the fall of 2020, the college has a total enrollment of 3,231 students (2,768 undergraduate students in six degree programs and 463 graduate students in 10 degree programs).
- **Special Note:** The enrolled students in ARCH account for roughly 19.7% of the College's total enrollment, 17.3% of the undergraduate student enrollment, and 34.1% of the graduate student enrollment. Of these, and excluding Ph.D. students, the number of students who earn a degree in the Masters of Architecture and qualify to pursue a professional licensure as Architects is approximately 100, or about 3.1% of our College's total enrollment.

College Rankings

Several of the college's programs across, all four departments have been ranked by various entities. With a commitment to excellence in teaching, research and service, we anticipate continued recognition. The following are select recent rankings:

- **ARCH**
 - Texas A&M ranked fifth on DesignIntelligence's "Architecture Schools Most Hired from by Firms," a list of schools with similar-sized graduating classes. Last year, Texas A&M was ranked twelfth (*Design Intelligence 2019*).
 - DesignIntelligence's list of the ten "Most Admired Architecture Educators," included Rodney Hill, a 50-year member of the College of Architecture faculty, who ranked seventh (*Design Intelligence 2019*).
- **COSC**
 - Accreditation by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) does not allow construction programs to be ranked.
 - However, in the U.S., COSC has **(a)** the largest undergrad program, **(b)** the largest *Construction Industry Advisory Council (CIAC)*, **(c)** the most federal grants of any similar type of construction program, and **(d)** an endowment for scholarships that is larger than the other six of the "Construction Peer 7" schools combined – Arizona State University, Auburn University, University of Florida, Colorado State University, Purdue University, and Virginia Tech.
- **LAUP**
DesignIntelligence 2019 Rankings
 - Texas A&M's landscape architecture undergraduate program ranked 11th and its graduate program ranked 15th in DesignIntelligence's "Most Admired Landscape Architecture Schools" list (*Design Intelligence 2019*).
 - -Galen Newman was named to the "Landscape Architecture — Most Admired Educators" list, which honors excellence in design education (*Design Intelligence 2019*).
 - **Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)**
College Factual Rankings
 - - #11 overall
 - - #1 in Texas

- **VIZA**
Animation Career Review's 2018 Rankings
 - - #2 nationally among BS programs
 - - #3 nationally among MS & MA programs
 - - #18 overall
- **Interdisciplinary traditions**
 - Since 1995, the College of Architecture has continued to hone its teaching, research and service mission with a special emphasis on interdisciplinary work and professional collaboration with industry partners.
 - The college is distinctive in that it offers a truly interdisciplinary curriculum, recognizing that no single professional track or narrow specialization can adequately prepare tomorrow's building and planning professionals. Because the college houses disciplines related to natural, built, and virtual environments, it is uniquely suited for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Vision for the Future of the College

The college is committed to sustaining disciplinary integrity among its departments, fostering established and new teaching, professional and research programs, and encouraging continued collaboration within the college, across TAMU and TAMUS, and with government and industry. Its faculty and staff share a united vision of significantly influencing the state of the art in the conception, planning, design, construction, and operations & management of the built environment, whether natural, physical, virtual, or a combination between/among these three environments, as an integrated multi-disciplinary environment rich in resources. Our new name will serve us well in this endeavor.

Conceptual Draft of the New Proposed College Logo



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

College of the Built Environment



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

College of the Built Environment

STANDARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

03.02.02.M0.02 Policy and Procedure for Effecting Change in Academic Administrative Structure

Approved June 2, 1993

Revised February 19, 2014

Revised January 29, 2020

Next scheduled review: January 29, 2025

Standard Administrative Procedure Statement

Changes in academic administrative structure, including the creation of new colleges, schools, departments or other academic units, and the merger, division, renaming, or dissolution of existing departments or academic units, must occur in the context of participation by faculty and the administration under the process set out in this procedure. The decision to pursue the change will be made by the applicable Dean(s) or equivalent level administrator and transmitted to the Provost for approval.

Official Procedure

1. PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION

The process for participation varies depending upon the type of academic unit being created or changed:

- 1.1 Prior to the creation of a new academic unit or change to an existing academic unit that is or will be listed on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Program Inventory or in which any faculty member(s) holds or will hold tenure, a committee of faculty and other affected parties impacted by the new unit or proposed change shall be formed to identify issues, concerns, structures and strategies. The size and makeup of the committee will vary according to circumstances, but the majority of the committee members must be faculty of the affected unit(s), at least half of which shall be elected by the faculty of the affected unit(s). The Dean may appoint the remainder of the committee to ensure broad representation of concerned groups. The committee shall be consulted at every stage of the decision-making process and the faculty shall be informed of the progress of the committee and the final results. The committee shall provide a

written report providing its input on the proposed creation of a new academic unit or change to an existing academic unit. For the purposes of this document "faculty" refers to those eligible to vote for members of the Faculty Senate.

- 1.2 Prior to the creation of an academic unit or change to an existing academic unit not included in section 1.1 above, the Dean or equivalent level administrator shall submit an initial proposal to the Provost and Executive Vice President describing the type of academic unit being requested or the requested change to an existing academic unit. The Provost and Executive Vice President, in coordination with the Dean or equivalent level administrator, will determine the participation and input required.
- 1.3 In all cases, input from the Faculty Senate and the Council of Deans should also be requested by the Dean or equivalent level administrator.

2. APPROVAL

After receipt of the input described in section 1 above, the decision regarding the proposed organizational change(s) will be made by the Dean or equivalent level administrator and transmitted to the Provost and Executive Vice President for approval. When the recommended change is transmitted to the Provost and Executive Vice President, documentation of the input and participation described in section 1 shall be provided, including any reports submitted to the Dean or equivalent level administrator.

Upon approval by the Provost and Executive Vice President of the proposed organizational change, the Dean or equivalent level administrator will be responsible for initiating all internal administrative procedures to implement the change. Any required notification to the THECB will be the responsibility of the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Supplements [System Policy 03.02](#)

Contact Office

[Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President](#)