

Resolution on Faculty Involvement in the Design of the Campus Built Environment

Adopted by the Camden Faculty Council

March 6, 2014

The quality of the built environment – consisting of individual buildings, open spaces, thoroughfares, and relationships among all these components – is central to the success of any university campus. Functionally and aesthetically well-designed buildings contribute immeasurably to the university's ability to carry out at the highest level of excellence its missions of teaching, scholarship, and service. And thoughtful planning for both individual buildings and the overall built environment can help nurture healthy and vital academic communities.

The members of the faculty have a unique and indispensable expertise on the ingredients necessary to the success of academic buildings. They also have invaluable perspectives on the entire range of questions relating to the design of the built environment.

Therefore,

1. The Camden Faculty Council (Council) is firmly determined and resolves that:
 - a. Whenever the campus undertakes to build a new academic building or substantially renovate or repurpose an existing building for academic uses, faculty members of the units that will be using that building (not limited to deans or other administrators) should, through an appropriate committee or other structure and in cooperation with other stakeholders as well as design professionals, be materially involved in deliberations and decisions during the entire design process for that building, including but not limited to: specifying the architectural program, selecting an architect, reviewing initial design proposals, and approving intermediate and final designs as well as significant design changes.
 - b. Whenever the campus undertakes to build a new non-academic building, substantially renovate or repurpose an existing building for non-academic uses, or create or alter any critical element of the built environment, members of the campus faculty as a whole (not limited to deans or other administrators) should play a significant consultative role, and ideally be involved in deliberations and decisions, throughout the entire design process, as defined above.
 - c. The Council should work with the campus Chancellor, Provost, and other campus and University officials to deliberate seriously and meaningfully about general issues relating to the campus's built environment, including but not limited to: the siting of new buildings, their relationship to each other, the look and feel of the campus, and campus master planning.
2. The Council directs its Chair to transmit this resolution to the campus Chancellor and Provost and appropriate officers of the campus and University administration and to seek the cooperation of those officers in effectuating the goals of this resolution.