

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

### A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

#### College of Architecture and Urban Planning Name Change to College of Built Environments

##### RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the name of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning be changed to the College of Built Environments effective October 1, 2008.

##### BACKGROUND

When the university granted CAUP its current name in 1957, the college housed only two departments. Today it houses four. The college and its departments now offer fourteen graduate and undergraduate degrees and two interdisciplinary Ph.D.'s, as well as seven certificates across four disciplines. Our new graduate degree in real estate will enroll its first students in the fall 2009. The proposed name change more equitably represents this diverse community of teachers, students, and alumni. The name "College of Built Environments" better reflects the increasingly diverse academic composition of the college, and better aligns its identity with the changing requirements of current and future practices among its constituent professions. All these professions—architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, urban design, real estate, and construction management—share profound responsibilities for environmental integrity. All represent practices that combine environmental design, policy, and physical intervention. All increasingly orient to the grand challenges that will shape twenty-first century experience, in particular urbanization and climate change.

The contemporary architecture/engineering/construction sector increasingly emphasizes a systemic and ecological approach to the design and planning of buildings and cities, which in turn stimulate alternative project delivery models requiring much greater levels of disciplinary integration. Moreover, the complexity of managed urban growth presupposes intensified exchange among adjacent disciplines, such as public health, public affairs, business, forestry, social work, and biology. In response to these developments, our faculty recently adopted ambitious strategic principles that strengthen the interdisciplinary character of research and design inquiry. The name "College of Built Environments" broadcasts these important strategic objectives at the same time as it embraces its institutional responsibility to the university's new College of the Environment.

College of Architecture and Urban Planning Name Change to College of Built Environments cont.

In the United States, the phrase “built environment” has so far been adopted by centers, institutes, and programs, but not as yet by schools or colleges. CAUP established its Ph.D. Program in the Built Environment five years ago; the University of California-Berkeley has a Center for the Built Environment; and

Colorado State University has an Institute for the Built Environment (a research-based center in their Department of Construction Management). In the United

Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and parts of Asia, many universities favor the formulation “School of the Built Environment,” typically offering professional curricula in architecture, planning, and construction; we count over six such schools in the U.K. Should the Board of Regents approve this request, UW will have the first *College of Built Environments* in the United States.

This request follows over a year of extensive college-wide discussion. At the college’s November 2007 faculty planning retreat, seventy-three percent of participating faculty members supported changing the college name. In a college wide survey, respondents favored such a name change by a 2-to-1 margin over the current and alternative appellations. Related motions subsequently earned unanimous support from the Executive Committee and College Council.

Attachment: Letter from Dean Daniel Friedman to Provost Phyllis Wise dated August 8, 2008.

August 8, 2008

To: Phyllis M. Wise  
From: Daniel S. Friedman  
Subject: College nomenclature

". . . in the absence of anything adjectival, nothing referred to by any noun could have an independent existence."  
—A.K. Coomaraswamy, "Ornament" [in R. Lipsey, ed. *Selected Papers: Traditional Art and Symbolism*, 252]

On November 17, 2007, in a straw poll conducted during a daylong strategic planning retreat, the faculty of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning voted by a decisive majority to change the name of CAUP. After much discussion, the faculty reasoned that a new name would better reflect its increasingly diverse academic composition, and better align its identity with the changing requirements of current and future practices among its constituent professions. All these professions—architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, urban design, real estate, and construction management—share profound responsibilities for environmental integrity. All represent practices that combine environmental design, policy, and physical intervention. All increasingly orient to the grand challenges that will shape twenty-first century experience, in particular urbanization and climate change. In view of these developments, the faculty now seeks a clearer, more accurate, and more appropriate academic nomenclature.

When the university granted CAUP its current name in 1957, the college housed only two departments. Today it houses four. The college and its departments now offer fourteen graduate and undergraduate degrees and two interdisciplinary Ph.D.'s, as well as seven certificates across four disciplines. Our new graduate degree in real estate will enroll its first students in the fall 2009. The proposed name change more equitably represents this diverse community of teachers, students, and alumni.

Eight robust centers and labs enrich college curricula with broad research agendas covering all aspects of environmental planning, construction, and design: the Urban Ecology Research Lab, the Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, the Urban Form Lab, the Integrated Design Lab, the Green Futures Lab, the Pacific Northwest Center for Construction Research and Education, the Northwest Center for Livable Communities, and the Design Machine Group. All of these centers and labs conduct interdisciplinary research. Together they generate the largest portion of the college's \$5.5 million in research funding, which currently represents 35 grants. In April, the faculty adopted strategic initiatives that aim to double research revenues in five years. The proposed name change better reflects the context of this commitment, which sees research as an indissoluble ingredient of professional education in all our disciplines.

No less important than the steady expansion of academic scope and research is the transformation of the architecture, construction, and engineering (AEC) industry, a trillion dollar annual economy. New ways of envisioning information and form—geographic information systems (GIS) and building information modeling (BIM), for example—have stimulated unprecedented integration among the disciplines that comprise this industry, both culturally and contractually. The proposed name change better recognizes the complex reality of the constructed world, which it envisions within the frame of coupled human and natural systems.

Equally significant is the estimated 48 percent of total annual greenhouse gas emissions directly or indirectly attributable to the AEC sector, and growing recognition of the importance of sustainable design and development in the next century. Moreover, emerging hybrid methods and vocabularies in both the professional and academic communities increasingly emphasize the systemic and ecological contexts of buildings and infrastructure in urban and regional development, which presuppose intensified exchange among adjacent disciplines, such as public health, public affairs, business, forestry, social work, and biology. In response, CAUP’s faculty recently adopted ambitious strategic principles that strengthen the interdisciplinary character of research and design inquiry. The proposed name change better broadcasts these important strategic objectives.

This request is the culmination of nearly a year of discussion. In their May 2007 accreditation report to the provost, representatives of the American Council for Construction Education raised the issue that the current college name fails to reflect the full diversity of programs, noting that the Council’s previous visiting team issued the same concern five years earlier. CAUP’s Executive Committee and College Council formally took up this issue at its June 2007 retreat. A memo to faculty members seeking their thoughts and perspectives soon followed, culminating in the aforementioned November 2007 straw poll. Buoyed by broad support for a change, the Office of the Dean polled students, faculty, and staff on the appropriateness and suitability of five alternate names, including the college’s current name. The results favored “College of the Built Environment” by a clear 2-to-1 margin.

	College of Architecture and Urban Planning	College of Architecture, Construction Management, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design and Planning	College of Environmental Design	College of Environmental Design and Construction	College of the Built Environment
1 (most)	69	12	45	39	160
2	75	23	71	48	66
3	80	20	87	58	45
4	65	25	56	113	18
5 (least)	36	245	66	67	36
Total	325	325	325	325	325

In June 2008, the Executive Committee and College Council unanimously endorsed petitioning the university to rename CAUP the “College of the Built Environment.” However, following further discussions with faculty leaders, members of the professional community, colleagues from different units around the university, and the Office of the Provost, we eliminated the article and pluralized the noun. We believe this small syntactical adjustment helps minimize confusion with the new College of the Environment, and moreover strengthens the overlapping missions of the two institutional entities. We therefore now seek your approval and the approval of the president and Board of Regents for the following name:

“College of Built Environments.”<sup>1</sup>

In one form or another, this name has precedent in the international academic community. The University of California-Berkeley has a Center for the Built Environment, and Colorado State University has an Institute for the Built Environment (a research-based center in their Department of Construction Management). In the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and parts of Asia, many universities favor the formulation “School of the Built Environment,” typically offering professional curricula in architecture, planning, and construction. We count over six such schools in the U.K. alone. Notwithstanding, should the Board of Regents approve our request, UW will have the first *College* of Built Environments in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

#### Notes

1. Although the phrase “built environment” suggests a broad typology of construction and design activity, including civil and environmental engineering (roads, bridges, infrastructure) and habitable industrial products (airplanes, automobiles, interiors, furniture), the college expressly seeks a name with porous and adaptable institutional boundaries, since increasingly its core disciplines must account for the systemic complexity and interdependence of all designed and constructed interventions across the full spectrum of scales. The current Wikipedia entry, *s.v.* “built environment,” provides a serviceable characterization of the popular understanding of this phrase:

The phrase *built environment* refers to the man-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, ranging from the large-scale civic surroundings to personal places.

In architecture and environmental psychology, the phrase is a useful acknowledgement that a small fraction of buildings constructed annually, even in the industrialized world, are designed by architects, and that users of the built environment encounter issues that cross the traditional professional boundaries between urban planners, traffic engineers, zoning authorities, architects, interior designers, industrial designers, etc. Historically, much of the built environment has taken the form of vernacular architecture, and this is still the case in large parts of the world. In the industrialized world, many buildings are produced by large-scale development remote from its eventual users.

In landscape architecture, the built environment is identified as opposed to the natural environment, with the recognition that places like Central Park may have the look, feel, and nourishing quality of natural surroundings while being completely artificial and “built,” thus blurring the line between the two.

In urban planning, the phrase connotes the idea that a large percentage of the human environment is manmade, and these artificial surroundings are so extensive and cohesive that they function as organisms in the consumption of resources, disposal of wastes, and facilitation of research into the impact of the built environment's impact on population health. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Built\\_environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Built_environment)]

2. The University of Washington already enjoys market presence in the area of the built environment. In an August 2008 survey of Internet sites, the first URL listed in a general search for the phrase “College of the Built Environment” was CAUP’s Ph.D. Program in the Built Environment. A subsequent search for the exact phrase “College of the Built Environment” yielded just three links, two of which connect to CAUP Staff Council meeting minutes published on our website. A subsequent search for the exact phrase “College of Built Environments” yielded no results.

## Appendix 1

## BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF THE COLLEGE

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1914	The formal study of architecture at the University of Washington begins with a curriculum developed by Seattle architect Carl F. Gould.
1928	The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture accredits the undergraduate professional curriculum.
1935	The university elevates the department to the status of a school.
1941	The university approves Bachelor of Architecture in Urban Planning.
1957	The school becomes the College of Architecture and Urban Planning.
1961	The college divides into two departments, architecture and urban planning.
1964	The college establishes the Department of Landscape Architecture and the building technology program.
1996	The university approves CAUP's request to change the name of the Department of Building Construction to the Department of Construction Management.
2003	The university approves the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the Built Environment program.
2006	The university approves the M.Sc. in Real Estate program.
2007	The CAUP faculty endorses a name change to better reflect its academic diversity and mission.

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## Appendix 2

## DEFINITIONS

*Oxford English Dictionary* (2nd ed.)

## "built"

1. a. Constructed, erected, etc.: see BUILD v.

## "environment"

1. The action of environing; the state of being environed.
- 2a. That which environs; the objects or the region surrounding anything.
- 2b. The conditions under which any person or thing lives or is developed; the sum-total of influences which modify and determine the development of life or character.

## Appendix 3

## EXISTING UW INSTITUTIONAL NOMENCLATURE

The word "science(s)" appears 19 times (in 2 colleges and 17 academic programs).

College of Arts and *Sciences*  
 College of Ocean and Fisheries *Sciences*  
 Applied and Computational Mathematical *Sciences*  
 Atmospheric *Sciences*  
 Computer *Science* and Engineering  
 Dental Public Health *Sciences*  
 Earth and Space *Sciences*  
 Environmental and Occupational Health *Sciences*  
 Environmental *Science* and Resource Management  
 Genome *Sciences*  
 Materials *Science* and Engineering  
 Military *Science*  
 Naval *Science*  
 Nutritional *Sciences*  
 Paper *Science* and Engineering  
 Political *Science*  
 Psychiatry and Behavioral *Sciences*  
 Quantitative *Science*  
 Speech and Hearing *Sciences*

The word "engineering" appears 8 times (in 1 college and 7 academic programs).

College of *Engineering*  
 Chemical *Engineering*  
 Civil and Environmental *Engineering*  
 Computer Science and *Engineering*  
 Electrical *Engineering*  
 Materials Science and *Engineering*  
 Mechanical *Engineering*  
 Paper Science and *Engineering*

Some form of the word "environment" appears five times (in 5 academic programs).

Civil and *Environmental* Engineering  
*Environmental* and Occupational Health Sciences  
*Environmental* Science and Resource Management  
 Program on the *Environment*  
 Community, *Environment*, and Planning



The word "health" appears five times (in 1 school and 4 academic programs).

School of Public *Health* and Community Medicine

Public *Health* Genetics

*Health* Services

*Health* Services Administration

Global *Health*

The word "medicine" appears five times (in 2 schools and 3 academic programs).

School of *Medicine*

School of Public Health and Community *Medicine*

Family *Medicine*

Laboratory *Medicine*

*Medicine*

The word "art(s)" appears three times (in 1 college and 2 academic programs).

College of *Arts* and Sciences

*Art*, Art History, and Design

Digital *Arts* and Experimental Media (DXARTS)

The word "architecture" appears three times (in 1 college and 2 academic programs).

College of *Architecture* and Urban Planning

*Architecture*

Landscape *Architecture*