



May 15, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

VIA: Daniel S. Friedman
Dean, School of Architecture

FROM: Architecture Faculty Senate

The Architecture Faculty Senate (AFS) has met in order to discuss the recent meeting with faculty members from Engineering. After careful reflection, AFS wishes to present its perspective on the future of the School of Architecture:

- The School of Architecture offers the only accredited architecture degree program in the State of Hawai'i and directly supports a thriving professional community.
- AFS believes that because of the critical importance of the School's programs to the State and Asia-Pacific region, the School of Architecture must retain its administrative autonomy within UH-Manoa.
- The School of Architecture maintains a unique and valuable set of degree programs, faculty, and research profiles, which encompass design, art, the humanities, and technology.
- The School of Architecture is poised to grow. We have added a new Master of Landscape Architecture degree that features an innovative place-based curriculum and intends to attract students to study in one of the most unique ecological environments in the world.
- The University of Hawai'i Community Design Center is taking on substantial new design and research projects through a newly forged partnership with the State Government. These projects will be a new source of extramural funding to the School and provide a platform for collaborations across departments and with the professional community.
- The Building Voices symposium, competition, and exhibition, which gathered leaders across the built environment faculties and professions, has demonstrated the unique position of the School of Architecture in driving the design discourse for the State of Hawai'i.

- We believe that all of these initiatives are rooted and positioned to further increase our relevance, research dollars, graduation rate, support additional faculty, and to drive student enrollment.

In spite of this momentum and anticipated growth, we are concerned about the following:

- Prospective environmental design, architecture, and future landscape architecture students have a wide selection of nationally prestigious programs from which to choose. Identity and autonomy, including administrative autonomy, are vital to maintaining our reputation, enrollment, and the recognition of our singular and accredited D.Arch degree. Furthermore, the identity and autonomy of the School of Architecture with clear leadership will substantially increase the national profile of our school and the value of UH-Manoa degrees for our students and alumni.
- As an autonomous unit, we require clear and positive leadership. Therefore, we request that a search for a new School of Architecture Dean commence during Fall 2017.
- Despite our projected growth, two of our vital G-funded faculty lines have recently been swept. Swept FTE should be immediately reinstated in order to keep up with our increasing instructional demands.
- We must continue to support our faculty (and especially our junior faculty) in creative, artistic, and humanities-based research, as this comprises more than two-thirds of the school's faculty work. Because of this, reorganization with Engineering would be a disciplinary mismatch.
- The meetings that we have had with you and with Engineering faculty should be in no way construed as consent by AFS to any future reorganization or realignment.
- We are concerned about the lack of a clear process and strategy and the missed opportunity to meet with other departments, as was initially discussed. A truly innovative model for a problem-centered reorganization would involve our colleagues in other departments.

As you also commented in our meeting, it is premature to discuss reorganizations with any specific unit. Logistically, the vast majority of our members are on 9-month duty periods and will thus not be available during the summer to meet. We ask that any further discussions be put on hold over the summer. We look forward to continuing this thread with you in the Fall so that we can substantially explore and critically evaluate options.

Respectfully yours,
Architecture Faculty Senate