To be received and placed on file:

The committee met three times this academic year, once each quarter. During its Fall quarter meeting, the committee met with Associate Chancellor Gretchen Bolar, who is the chief building planning officer in the administration. She provided the committee with information on the numerous current and forthcoming campus building projects. As in past years, the committee continues to have the sense that it is being informed of decisions after the fact, and that it would be better if a mechanism could be established for it to be more involved in the original decisions on academic space.

The committee has been invited to name a representative to the committee for each individual building to be built. However because of the large number of individual building committees and constraints on the amount of time that can be given to any of those committees (whose meetings consume many hours for many months), the PRP committee has decided that it will ask those faculty members who have been appointed to a building committee as a representative of their department or college to communicate to PRP any problems with the process or other relevant observations (but PRP will continue in many cases to nominate its own representative to a building committee).

A number of significant problems have arisen in the process of planning and designing campus buildings. In some cases it appears that the specific needs of a department, which will be housed in the building, tend to be ignored by the building architects, who take their cues from the administration. On the other hand, in at least one case where the architectural firm appeared to be cooperating well with the departments concerned in meeting their needs, leading to some friction with the administration, the administration then fired the architectural firm. In another case, the department, which was slated to be the major occupant of a building ended up being displaced from the building as the administration in a succession of decisions, set aside various parts of the building for other units.

Another source of frustration to the committee has been the choice of architects for the various buildings. It is the feeling of the committee that a better selection of architectural firms during this building boom would have led to more distinguished architecture on campus, and that a great opportunity has been missed, and is being missed.

The committee plans to invite administrators to meet with the committee in the future to discuss some of these issues. The committee also plans to consider models at other UC campuses for handling such matters.

The committee chair has regularly attended meetings of the Academic Senate Advisory Committee, where he, along with others, has expressed concern about the pressures that the extremely rapid growth at UCR is putting on classroom space and class sizes. The committee chair has also been attending the meetings of the West Campus Area Plan committee, as planning proceeds for the campus area southwest of the freeway between Martin Luther King and University. The committee chair also, as the PRP representative on the campus Naming Committee, has been involved in assuring that the faculty members are consulted when a name is being considered for a building in which they are housed.

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