Regular members of the Campus Design Review Board: Diane Benninghoff, Lori Bissell, Greg Capell, Dan Crossey, George Eckhardt, Ed Eng, Cecilia Gonzalez, Jessica Hunter-Larsen, Scott Johnson, Miro Kummel, Jonathan Lee (Chair), Chris Melcher, Andrew Price-Smith.

The Year’s Business: Given the College’s current fiscal constraints, 2009-2010 was not a year that saw much in the way of active building or remodeling of existing campus structures. The DRB did, however, review on an on-going basis a number of important design projects that were in the pipeline. These included the following:

- **ADA-approved signage to mark campus buildings and to guide visitors.** The DRB considered several prototype designs, aiming to provide some design continuity with the extensive campus signage project approved last year.

- **Rastall Dining Hall renovation project.** The DRB followed the programming and design concept process of this project very carefully. At its block 2 meeting, the DRB unanimously approved a resolution endorsing a process by which the College community would be guaranteed regular and extensive communication at every level of the planning and design process. This resolution, which was forwarded to the FEC and Chris Melcher, read as follows: “The Campus Design Review Board supports the planning process for the Rastall renovation project, as presented by Chris Melcher and Tim Fuller. As we understand it, this process includes the hiring of a consultant by the Rastall Renovation Working Group. This consultant will assist the Working Group with surveys of the campus community and focus groups, leading to the development of a final program for the renovation project. We understand that these steps will be taken before any decision is made about the final project design architect.” With a design architect now engaged in making cost estimates, it is hoped that this project will begin during the summer of 2010.

- **El Pomar Sports Center renovation and expansion project.** The DRB received an extensive report on the plans to renovate and expand (with a fitness center) the El Pomar Sports Center and made a number of suggestions that have been incorporated into the still-developing plans.

- **Mathias Hall renovation and remodeling project.** The DRB received extensive reports on the plans to renovate and remodel Mathias Hall. Following upon the DRB’s feedback, steps have been taken to launch this project in the summer of 2010.
• **New Children’s Center project.** The DRB received reports from the newly constituted building committee charged with developing plans for a new Children’s Center to be situated on the East Campus. Plans for this project are still very tentative but are moving ahead, with a completion date of January 2012 projected.

• **Outdoor Performance Space.** The DRB approved the basic concept of proposed outdoor performance space, designed by Max Robillard as part of a student design competition. This informal architectural space will occupy the island-courtyard between Bemis Hall and McGregor Hall. The project’s completion is scheduled for September 2010.

• **Cutler Hall landscaping and paving project.** After much discussion over the course of the year, the DRB approved a proposal from Facilities to move ahead with plans to transform the paving and landscaping on the east side of Cutler Hall. The proposal calls for removal of the current asphalt drive, replacing this with an elegantly designed concrete drive; for building a stone wall to define the landscape to the east of this drive (the wall itself was approved by the DRB last year); and for building a “welcome mat” at Cutler Hall’s main entrance, using an artificial “structural flagstone.” Both the drive and the welcome mat will serve as a pilot project for a proposed revision of the Campus Paving Master Plan (approved by the DRB last year), which called for paving solutions that were difficult to maintain, exceedingly expensive, and problematic from an ADA perspective.

• **Gates Common Room remodeling.** With the proposed removal from Gates Common Room of the Boardman Robinson murals, the College will be faced with the task of doing some modest work to make the room aesthetically bearable. The DRB unanimously approved the formation of a working-group to help with the transition to a “new” Gates Common Room. This group should include Carl Reed, Ruth Kolarik, and Scott Johnson.

**Mission and Charge:** Faced with the *de facto* loss of its control over a sizable budget, the DRB engaged in a year-long examination of its own identity, its mission, and its charge. Realizing that the mission and charge in the current version of the Faculty Handbook neither accurately reflect what the DRB has done over the years nor capture the current DRB’s hopes for its future role, the DRB approved an extensive revision and reworking of its mission and charge. The document included as an Appendix to this report was forwarded to the FEC on 22 April for their consideration. Approval of the new mission and charge will require a faculty vote at some point in the future.

**Issues for the Future:** Three major issues face the DRB in the coming years, and each of these was the topic of much discussion this year:

• **Restoration of some budgetary control.** In 2008-2009, the DRB relinquished its control over a budget of some $100,000, in the interests of helping the College
deal with the financial crisis. At that time, the understanding was that this budgetary control would be restored at some point in the future, and this year’s DRB strongly urges that this happen as soon as it is financially feasible. Without any budgetary control, it is impossible for the DRB to bring in outside design experts where this might be appropriate.

- **Approval of the new mission and charge.** Until the faculty approves some version of the revised mission and charge, the DRB’s constitution and function remain problematically unclear. To the extent that this is the case, the campus community is not assured of having a voice in issues of design.

- **Creation of a “professional” design advisory group.** The Board of Trustees has endorsed the creation of a design advisory group made up of professionals in the design world who are also friends of the College. This year’s DRB was not consulted about this new group, and its creation raises a number of issues, including how precisely it should interact with the DRB.

**Minutes:** Copies of the minutes for all meetings of this year’s DRB are available on request.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Lee (Chair)
Appendix: Proposed Revision of the Campus Design Review Board’s Mission and Charge

Campus Design Review Board
Mission and Charge
Proposed: April 2010

Membership

The Campus Design Review Board (DRB) is composed of a minimum of the following:

- Three faculty; one from each division of the college, Humanities, Social Science, and Natural Science; to be appointed by the Faculty Executive Committee in consultation with the President.
- The Director of Facilities Services (ex-officio).
- A student appointed by the Student Government.
- Two students who apply and are chosen by the DRB

And as recommended by the Staff Council and appointed by the President:

- Three exempt staff members; from various divisions throughout the college.
- A non-exempt staff member.

And as determined by the DRB:

- Any members of the campus community chosen for their unique expertise in campus planning matters.
- The chairs of any active planning committees for proposed new building construction, or proposed major additions/renovations will be invited by the DRB chair to participate in meetings at scheduled milestone intervals, or when there is a need to share design information for DRB review purposes.

Charge

Acts as a visionary agent for the physical campus consistent with the LRDP and determines the potential of proposed projects to enhance the quality of the academic experience. Actively promotes opportunities to create a sense of place through preserving and enhancing physical features of the campus for students, faculty, and staff members of the campus community, visitors, and alumni.

Purpose

The Design Review Board provides stewardship and oversight of the LRDP (Long Range Development Plan), and reviews plans, design & development proposals affecting the campus built environment and open space environment. The Design Review Board
provides continuous reviews of plans, designs, proposed developments, or other proposals submitted from Consultants, Facilities Services, Building Design Committees, Staff, Faculty, and Students to ensure their consistency with the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) strategic Vision, Core Values, and Planning Principles and the fundamental Mission of the College.

The Design Review Board does the following:

- Provides leadership to ensure that the physical design of the college campus will inspire the campus community as well as the region, if not the nation.
- Promotes a sense of ownership by the users of the campus built & open space environment, which include students, faculty, and staff members of the campus community.
- Consults with professionals, including campus experts to help make the best use of financial resources and ensure better-informed design decisions.
- Ensures that design is integrated thoughtfully into the campus and surrounding neighborhood in accordance with the LRDP.
- Initiates an internal process to officially modify the LRDP and provide oversight on an as-needed basis when any portion of the LRDP document no longer meets the Vision, Core Values, and Mission of the College.
- Provides review comments and recommendations for requesters, planners, or senior administration as to the degree of consistency with the LRDP Development Guidelines and Design Standards elements which serve to assist in implementing design decisions affecting the physical environment of the College.
- Acts as steward preserving historic continuity, traditions, and respect for the physical history of the College built and open space environment.