

*Transforming the University*

**Final Recommendations of the  
Task Force on Collegiate Design: CALA/CHE**

**Submitted on behalf of the Task Force by:**

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**Co-Chairs of the Task Force**

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# **I. Executive Summary**

## **Mission**

To create a plan for a new, nationally distinctive, multidisciplinary college of design incorporating the Departments of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Design, Housing, and Apparel, and associated centers. The new college would aspire to be an international and national leader in multidisciplinary research, creative production, teaching, and public engagement in a wide variety of design-related fields.

## **Deliverables**

- A. Recommendations regarding the name and mission of the new college.
- B. Recommendations regarding areas of strengths and comparative advantage, including areas that should be targeted for additional investment consistent with the University's goal to become one of the top three public research universities in the world.
- C. Recommendations regarding existing strengths and opportunities and the potential for optimizing new collaborations and partnerships with other academic units outside the newly formed college.
- D. Recommendations on how the new college can be a model for the promotion of active public engagement.
- E. Recommendations regarding a strategy for enhancing the new college's prospects of becoming a widely recognized leader in design, contributing to the University's potential to take its place as one of the top three public research universities in the world. The strategy should bring the intellectual and disciplinary diversity of the University, currently dispersed across multiple colleges, to bear on all aspects of design.
- F. Recommendations regarding the optimal design, structure, and organization of the new college.

## **Task Force Members**

Katherine Solomonson, Co-chair, Department of Architecture, Associate Professor  
Becky Yust, Co-chair, Design, Housing and Apparel, Professor and Head  
Lynn Enger, Department of Landscape Architecture, Graduate Student  
Arthur Erdman, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Professor  
Rebecca Krinke, Department of Landscape Architecture, Associate Professor  
Karen LaBat, Department of Design, Housing and Apparel, Professor  
Lance LaVine, Department of Architecture, Professor  
Tom Meyer, Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd., Architect; Department of Architecture,  
Adjunct Associate Professor  
Kristen Paulsen, Department of Architecture, Alumna and Instructor  
Terence Rafferty, Department of Architecture, Director of Admissions & Recruitment

Sandra Ecklein, Staff, Office of the Senior Vice President & Provost, Coordinator for Educational Content Development

## **Key recommendations**

The new college of design's goal is to become a widely recognized leader in innovative, sustainable and publicly engaged design. As one of only a small number of broadly multidisciplinary design colleges located within a major research university, the college will be unusually well positioned to advance interdisciplinary research, education, and public engagement. The purpose of this document is to present a framework for developing the academic initiatives and strategies that will move the college forward in achieving these goals.

The task force's key recommendations include:

- building on disciplinary strengths and expanding interdisciplinary initiatives in design-related research, education, and public engagement;
- positioning the college as a nexus for design-related work throughout the university by cultivating cross-collegiate connections;
- advancing public engagement through partnerships with the professions, industry, agencies, and communities—locally, nationally, and globally;
- establishing recurring events and effective communications strategies that promote exchange and raise the college's profile as a center for design inquiry;
- establishing a collegiate structure that supports disciplinary distinction and interdisciplinary exchange in research, education, and public engagement;
- expanding the faculty and investing in the centers, staff, facilities, and resources that are vital to the success of an ambitious interdisciplinary agenda.

## **Broader themes outside scope of task force inquiry, and recommendations for future areas of effort**

The CALA/CHE task force has focused on the new design college's broad academic agenda. Its administrative structure and operations are beyond the scope of our charge. Areas for future work include:

- Plan for the continuation of the strategic planning process initiated in Fall Semester, 2005.
- Transition plan for establishing the new college.
- Administrative structure, lines of reporting, and staffing.
- Business plan, including budget and allocation of resources.
- Space and facilities plan for unifying the college spatially.
- Plan for organization and delivery of academic resources.
- Governance for the college and departments.
- Admission and recruiting plan for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Plan for the evaluation and (re)development of programs and curricula to facilitate interdisciplinary research, teaching, and collaboration.
- Detailed plan for the consideration, development, and implementation of the recommendations below.