



RESOLUTION

concerning

UNIVERSITY DESIGN GUIDELINES  
AND  
UNIVERSITY DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEES

October 7, 2004

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System approved BR#01-53 authorizing the development of Design Guidelines and the establishment of University Design Review Committees, and

WHEREAS, Each university has established a Design Review Committee and developed a set of University Design Guidelines that reflects its individual identity and spirit, and

WHEREAS, It is desirable to ensure a consistent and comprehensive template for the creation of Design Guidelines throughout the university system, therefore be it

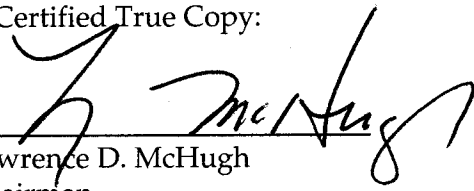
RESOLVED, That BR#01-53 be rescinded, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System shall implement appropriate guidelines and procedures for University Design Review Committees, and guidelines and a template to serve as a pattern for University Design Guidelines, ensuring that the key elements specified in the attached schedule are included, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System shall report the implementation plan to the Board, and provide annual summary reports to the Board concerning compliance with that plan, and be it further

RESOLVED, That each University Design Committee shall continue to provide an annual report to its President detailing the degree to which the University's Design Guidelines are being followed, and the President shall in turn transmit this annual report to the Chancellor and to the Board.

A Certified True Copy:

  
Lawrence D. McHugh  
Chairman

## Key Elements to be Included in Design Guidelines

- Introduction
- Facilities Master Plan
- Support of the Learning Process Through Design
- Sense of Place
- Relationship to Neighborhood
- Sense of Function
- Visual Continuity
- Building Requirements
  - Exterior Requirements
  - Interior Design and Finishes
  - Parking Structures
- Landscape and Open Spaces
  - Planting Guidelines
- Lighting/Signage/Street Furniture
- Duties and Responsibilities of Design Consultants
- Design Features
- Acknowledgements

Appendix:

- Technical Specifications

**ITEM**

Design Guidelines and University Design Review Committees for the Connecticut State University System.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2001, the Board of Trustees passed BR#01-53 establishing a policy on Design Guidelines for the university system. Since passage of the resolution each university has established a Design Review Committee and developed a set of Design Guidelines as required by board policy.

**ANALYSIS**

As was stated in the accompanying Staff Report to BR#01-53, "the proposed policy is to ensure that capital projects having a significant visual effect on any campus are consistent with that University's Master Facilities Plan, and that they meet the highest qualitative design standards with particular emphasis on the quality of public open space and landscape, architectural form and exterior appearance, the design of primary interior public spaces and the project's relationship and contribution to the larger campus context...".

While each of the four universities has its individual identity and spirit, it is essential that the design guidelines for each university be comprehensive and include certain basic components. It is also important to remember that design guidelines are intended to be used by a broad audience; by anyone who is in any way responsible for the development and maintenance of the physical environment, be they consultants, architects, planners or university staff. A list of key elements is delineated in the attachment to the Resolution, and an expanded and detailed list of those key elements will be included in any CSU campus design guidelines publication. Guidelines prepared pursuant to the detailed outline are not intended to restrict creativity but rather to provide a clear understanding of what is expected during design and construction implementation. They are designed to provide parameters in which originality and inventiveness may thrive, yet still preserve overall planning goals that maintain campus cohesiveness and specific standards.

BR#01-53 also mandated that the President of each university "shall appoint a broad-based Design Review Committee comprised of a minimum of 5 members representative of all university constituencies including the university architect." In an effort to build upon the base established by the Board in 2001, it is contemplated that each committee would be expanded to ten members in order for other constituencies not previously designated, such as a student and alumni association member, can be included.

Moreover, it is anticipated that members of the Design Review Committee should be chosen with the expectation that they will provide discipline to the architectural

design process. Members should have long-standing ties to the university, should be committed to the creation, maintenance and extension of a coherent, and aesthetic theme in the design of university buildings. They should be interested in bringing new and technologically advanced ideas to the university in the implementation of its long-range development of the physical environment.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the revised policy on Design Guidelines and Design Review Committees for the Connecticut State University System.