

September 2, 2011

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Chancellors Wartgow and DiStefano:

On June 15, 2011, we acknowledged receipt and acceptance of the final Special Report for the College of Architecture and Planning (CAP), dated May 24, 2011. In doing so, we carefully indicated that our acceptance of the Special Report “should not be interpreted to mean that we agree with and/or accept all the recommendations contained therein,” but rather that “the Special Report for the College of Architecture and Planning is now the official report of record” from the Joint Campus Review Panel.

After further review and discussion, we now believe it both advisable and prudent to move forward as expeditiously as possible with the following items. These clearly will expose other issues that must be resolved during the transition period leading to well-defined independent Denver and Boulder programs.

1. As a first step towards an expeditious administrative relocation of the BEnvd degree program to CU Boulder, “outsource” the current undergraduate instructional program in Environmental Design that is located on the CU Boulder campus to the local administrative control of the CU Boulder Provost’s Office and explain that the existing BEnvd will be delivered until the graduation of current students (or for five years, whichever is less). When a new BEnvd degree program is developed, current students will have the option of transferring into the new program that will replace the current BEnvd if they wish.
2. One or more MOUs should be developed that define administrative control of the Boulder BEnvd program, the necessary, required evaluation/oversight and possible reassignment of the tenured and tenure track faculty, and financial support of the campuses.
3. On the CU Boulder campus: Develop distinctive design-oriented undergraduate and graduate programs that would draw from the unique strengths in sustainability and environmental sciences that exist in Boulder.

4. On the CU Denver campus: Develop a distinctive undergraduate pre-architecture program (BA or BS in Architecture) complementing the graduate programs in architecture and planning that currently exist in Denver.

Subsequent to the June 15th acknowledgement of the Special Report, we announced to the CAP faculty, staff, and students on July 21 that we had assembled a Joint Campus Transition Panel comprised of members of the faculties and staffs at CU Denver and CU Boulder. This Joint-Campus Transition Panel will function in identifying and helping to coordinate critical information needed to fully comprehend the implications of developing Boulder and Denver programs and be advisory to us. A priority item for them must be the new MOU defining the transition to independence of the programs (see number 2 above).

We understand that both of you have been engaged in discussions regarding the best path forward for current and future Denver/Boulder CAP students while also considering the well-being of both campuses. At this time, our recommendation to you is to accept the Special Report for the College of Architecture and Planning, commit to the key recommendations enumerated above, and charge the Provosts of both campuses to expedite those critical aspects of a transition to independence of the Boulder and Denver programs. We believe that the major questions leading to independence can be addressed by December 31, 2011.

At your earliest convenience, we would appreciate a response from you as to how you would like us to proceed.

Sincerely,



Roderick Nairn, PhD
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Russell L. Moore, PhD
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