This item requests a committee discussion of the campus common material palette with the goal of determining how best to construct buildings with strong campus identity while encouraging creativity and employing technologically improved building materials when appropriate.

Background Information:

As it began its 75th year of operation (2002), the University of Houston proposed design guidelines intended to “transmit the traditions of its campus plan and architecture into the future “and to “assure a harmonious campus while at the same time encouraging architectural innovation and quality construction.”

The guidelines, which encouraged but did not specify the use of buff brick and shellstone, transparent glazing, pea gravel paving surfaces, and natural metal finish window framing, were intended to reinforce a material vocabulary similar to the campus original palette. This reinforcement would strengthen campus identity and provide more visual links between buildings.

In an August 2009 presentation to the Campus Facility Planning Committee, concerns were expressed regarding whether specific material criteria limited creativity and whether certain campus components (the paving in particular) should be completely restudied.

After studying the concerns, Facilities Planning proposes that the committee review underlying questions: what material choices are necessary to ensure that new buildings are identifiably “UH buildings?” In creating a campus look “brand,” is it...
necessary that one or more materials predominate, or that certain colors or accent materials be restricted? When there are enhancements in glazing products, such as fritted glass, or new cladding materials such as thin concrete panels, how can the guidelines be flexible enough to incorporate the worthy and reject the worthless?

Clearer guidelines will preclude frequent design issues where architectural firms have proposed building materials that do not follow these guidelines, at times to an extreme degree.

**Common Building Materials Palette**

**Shell Limestone** as exemplified by Ezekiel Cullen Building. This shell stone was used on recent buildings including the M D Anderson Library addition, SERC Research Tower and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts/Wortham Theatre Remodel.

**Precast Concrete** matching the color of the original shell stone. As used on the Recreation and Wellness Center, Calhoun Lofts, East Parking Garage, the Welcome Center, Cemo Hall, and Cougar Village; and as proposed for the Central Utilities Plant Expansion.

**Buff Brick** as used at the Recreation and Wellness Center, Calhoun Lofts, the Welcome Center; Cemo Hall, and Cougar Village; and as proposed for the Central Utilities Plant Expansion.

**Cast Stone** as used at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts. This cast stone is also proposed for the Central Utilities Plant Expansion.

**Clay Tile** (red) as used at E Cullen and other early UH buildings

**Accent Brick** (brown) as used at the Campus Recreation & Wellness Center, Calhoun Lofts, and Cemo Hall; and as proposed for the Central Utilities Plant Expansion.

**Accent Color** may include Cougar Red. It is recommended that when Cougar Red is used outdoors, that one shade darker be used to prevent the color from appearing too light in the sun.

**Glass framing systems** in natural aluminum color. This finish was used on the Welcome Center, Calhoun Lofts, the M D Anderson Library addition, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts/Wortham Theatre Remodel, East Parking Garage, Cemo Hall, and is proposed for the Central Utilities Plant Expansion.

**Window Glass** is non-tinted, now low-e energy efficient glass as used at the Welcome Center, Calhoun Lofts, the M D Anderson Library addition, East Parking Garage, Cemo Hall, and Cougar Village; and as proposed for the Central Utilities Plant Expansion.

**Sidewalks** in the campus core are typically pea-gravel pavement.
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Attachments