

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**  
**Campus Facilities Planning Committee**  
**Agenda Item Description Form**

- 1. Item:** Cougar Place Replacement/Sophomore Housing
- 2. Requesting Department:** Residential Life & Housing
- 3. Contact Names & Phone Numbers:** Don Yackley, x3-6002
- 4. Presenter:** Don Yackley/RLH, David Quenemoen, Chris Carvell-SpawGlass / PSP
- 5. Recommendation/Action Requested:**  
Approval
- 6. Summary:**  
Project Overview

Approval is requested for the exterior design of a four story, approximately 800-bed sophomore residence facility at the site of the existing Cougar Place apartments.

#### Background Information

As part of its goal to achieve Tier I status, the University of Houston proposes to meet Carnegie classification criteria requiring 25% of the total enrollment to live on campus. The Cougar Place / Sophomore Housing project will increase the number of beds on campus by 799, and will expand the Living/Learning College experience for sophomores and juniors; and support the upperclass college experience & student success and retention

The Campus Facilities Planning Committee approved the scope and site of the Cougar Place Replacement Project at its April 2011 meeting.

#### Design Overview

The Cougar Place Replacement Housing project is organized around two connected residential quads. At the intersection of the quads, a centrally located knuckle contains the larger shared program elements such as community kitchens and laundry areas. Additional smaller community areas like study areas and lounges are spread throughout the rest of the project. The massing of the building is limited to four floors, partially due to budget limitations of the structural system, but also to bridge between the adjacent low-rise residential neighborhood to the south and the rest of the larger-scaled campus to the north. The main public and resident entry for the project is from the northeast side of the site to connect with the rest of the campus, while the building is serviced from the south.

Adjacent to the entry are the commons and reception area. There are also three university classrooms nearby with separate entries. The pavilion-like massing of the commons with the sloping roof and generous overhangs provide an inviting entry and relate the project to the new West Dining Hall located across Cullen.

The majority of the building will be clad in brick and metal panel, matching materials found on

other recent campus projects. The brick veneer is typically limited to the lower 30' of the building due to the limitations of the building's structural system. The buff colored brick is accented with dark brick bands to recall the watertable base and vertical window panels found on many of the historic buildings found on campus, while the gray metal panels recall the cast aluminum panels found on these historic buildings.

Small areas of curtainwall are used at the student lounges around the building and large glass windows are also used to bring light into exit stairs and at the ends of corridors. Vinyl clad windows with performance glass are used for the residential units. Recessed portions of the facade, clad in metal panel, are strategically located to further break up the facade of the building.

Existing trees will be preserved on the site where possible and additional trees will be added to tie the project to the rest of the campus, particularly to the park-like setting of the West Dining Hall across the street.

- 7. Proposed Start Date:** Upon Approval
- 8. Supporting Documentation Description:**  
Cougar Place Replacement Rendered Site Plan





**Perspective View from Cullen Boulevard**  
Cougar Place Replacement Housing



**Perspective View from Cougar Place**  
Cougar Place Replacement Housing