



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
Campus Facilities Planning Committee  
Request for Project Approval Form**

1. **Project Number**
2. **Project Name** **West Dining Hall**
3. **Committee Date** **August 12, 2011**
4. **Requesting Department** **Dining Services**
5. **Contact Name & Phone Number** **Emily Messa, x3-8184**
6. **Presenter:** **Emily Messa, David  
Quenemoen, SpawGlass/PSP**
7. **Description of Request**

This item requests approval of the exterior design of the West Dining Hall (WDH), UH Building # 497. The Campus Facilities Planning Committee approved the site selection in January 2011.

**Background Information**

The construction of the West Dining Hall will allow the retirement of the outdated Oberholtzer dining commons. Facility assessment studies completed earlier this year revealed that the cost of renovating the dining commons cost would be comparable to constructing a new facility but would serve a smaller customer base. Plus, the old dining commons would not be able to expand to accommodate the increased student dining demand resulting from the Cougar Place Sophomore Housing and Cougar Village II residence buildings come on line on 2013.

**Design Overview**

The design of the WDH has focused on preserving the site's park-like setting by creating an airy pavilion-like structure that engages the diners with the surrounding landscape.

The building will be constructed on the southeast side of the site in order to minimize impact on existing trees. This location also creates an urban connection between the WDH and the Quadrangle residence halls to the east and allows open park area to surround the rest of the building.

The public face of the building addresses the campus, especially the upcoming Cougar Place Sophomore Housing to the northwest. The student dining area projects east and west on the north side of the building and features large expanses of glass which overlook the park while still being protected from the sun. Further south along the main trunk of the building are the servery, flanked by the restrooms and mechanical space, and finally the kitchen, located on the Wheeler side of the facility adjacent to the dock and service yard.

Grey standing seam metal panels that cover the sloped roofs and some limited facades recall the original cast aluminum panels used on many of the campus's original buildings. Clear glass brings natural daylight deep into the building interior and preserves the lightness of the design. The building's entry (enclosed in buff-colored cast stone similar to that used at the Fleming Teaching Laboratory and the Central Plant expansion) is reminiscent of the shell limestone found on older buildings throughout campus. The support and kitchen blocks feature solid facades consisting of a patterned brick veneer made up of the campus buff brick and two accent brick types already found on campus buildings.

The existing pedestrian paths on the site will be widened and reconfigured for pedestrian access between WDH and the rest of campus. A segment of the planned campus loop road will be constructed with this project and will allow service and emergency vehicle access to the building.

The required storm water detention area will be treated as a landscape amenity. The grassy depression will be located to minimize tree loss; excess stormwater will flow into the landscaped berms used to screen the service yard at the south of the building.

The sculpture *Fiesta Dancers* by Luis Jimenez will be situated along the southwest-northeast pedestrian path, near the intersection of Cullen and Wheeler where it will be visible to both the UH and outside communities.

**8. Proposed Start Date:** Upon approval

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Spencer Moore  
Executive Director  
Facilities Planning & Construction

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Rockwell-Bellini  
Executive Director  
Facilities Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments



Voting Results:

- Motion Failed
- Motion Passed
- Motion Passed with the Following Modifications:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Motion Deferred to a Future Meeting Pending Receipt of Additional  
Information:

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