# Palomar College

# Architectural Advisory Committee

# Meeting Minutes

**17 March 2017**

1. Call to order

Joe Lucido called to order the regular meeting of the Architectural Advisory Committee at 3:17 on March 17, 2017 in NS-145.

1. Welcome, Introduction of Members, Role of the Advisory Committee

The following members were present: Joseph Lucido, Mark Baker, Riccardo Ferguson, Len Zegarski, Marcel Sanchez, Dennis Lutz, Anita Talone, Logan Anderson, and Bastiaan Bouma.

Joe began the meeting with introductions, excited to establish and re-establish relationships with industry as well as educational partners in Architecture. He thanked everyone for attending. Joe gave the committee a brief overview of the function, role and responsibilities of the advisory committee. Anita explained Discipline, Department and Division. She also emphasized the important role our industry and educational partners play in getting funding for the program. The two post-secondary schools in attendance, Woodbury University and NewSchool of Architecture were both very excited to help Palomar students transfer and continue their education. Industry partners expressed their excitement to be there.

1. Approval of Minutes

Anita motioned to approve the minutes from March 26, 2014, Riccardo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

1. Review of Class Offerings, Review of AS Degrees & Certificates of Achievement

Joe began this discussion by pointing out the Architecture Course Offerings handout. Joe wanted to find out from the schools and industry partners whether the classes were relevant; did they need to be edited; and are we missing something in the program that would allow our students to successfully work in the field or transfer to their school.

ARCH 105 -Students come into Architecture from different places. Dennis spoke about high school articulation and veterans. Industry agrees that people need to know the basics of hand drafting not just computer skills. Schools agree that it is important to hand draft and make critical assessments. Riccardo said that as an Architect, when he hires someone, he expects them to know how to hand draft. He felt it was another skill that he liked to have from all my people. Mark agreed and wanted to emphasize sketching. He felt additionally the ability to delineate in the computer for production purposes was important. The schools want to know, what are they drawing in this class? Dennis said that the students draw parts of a building and other small concepts. The response was negative to this. The schools agreed that it is important to have the basic skill of hand drafting. Marcel from Woodbury added that students need to be taught the skill of being able to speak and draw what you are speaking about. Being able to articulate a concept on the fly, instead of only going to the computer to draw a “picture.” Joe summarized this discussion by saying that, it sounds like Architecture is evolving, and we need to evolve with it.

Arch 120/121 – Dennis gave a history of why we have two history classes, explaining that ARCH121 matches the Multi-Cultural requirement. NewSchool of Architecture suggested that we might want to look at grouping 120/121 &155 (even 105), because it might be an interesting way to get students to dive in and see context in history. Woodbury agreed, saying that usually in history classes, students are only remembering dates, and that the class should be more hands on to give history relevance. Dennis asked the schools if they would give students credit for these history classes. The schools said yes. Before this discussion ended, Joe raised the concern that once these classes went online, Palomar College lost engagement in History from the students. These classes need field trips. History classes cannot be taught online to be effective and meaningful.

Arch 135 – Everyone seemed excited about this class. The class should be extremely hands-on. This is the class where students need to figure out and understand what a 2 x 4 is. They need to go to Home Depot and look at drywall. The schools suggested field trips to job sites. There is should be more time spent out of their seats than in them. Bastiaan interjected that AIA insurance for such occasions.

This discussion led the committee to identity a clear need for our program, to have an Architect’s design area –this would be a space for students to do mock-ups and models, especially because not everyone can read a blue prints. Industry partners agree that a general space would be good for the program, but also suggested the importance of students being familiar with job sites, job site behavior, expectations and soft skills. In addition to taking field trips to construction sites, industry suggested that a great preparation for students would be to make connections to the city’s permit systems

ARCH 144 & 145 – Joe asked, do we need both? He stated that we are open to almost anything with those classes. Recommendations from the committee were to strengthen ARCH 144 and reinforce the skills taught in 105 (basic class). There needs to be a presentation component using Photoshop or Sketchup. The entire Adobe Suite could also be used in this class and, in turn, help to make their portfolios. The ARCH145 class would then become the amalgam of architectural tools. The committee liked the idea of renaming it to Design Communications. Industry stated that students with those skills could get immediately hired. Riccardo commented that if students can render, and present it, that’s great. Both industry and schools said if these classes could make the connection with interior design classes such as space design or kitchen design, it would be even better for the students.

Dennis mentioned the re-organization of Departments, and that we would have a better connection to the other Design Departments.

ARCH 150, 200, 202, 204 All members agreed they are very important classes.

ARCH 160 – This Eco-building class is one class that needs to be a part of a much greater certificate. The question that Joe posed is whether the Eco-building certificate will get someone a job? The committee agreed that as the certificate stands currently in the catalog, it is not sufficient to get a job as an Eco-building professional. Industry said that their clients do not care if someone has this certificate. It will not get them hired. Why would someone pay $20K for a certificate in Eco-Building Professional that does not get them a job? It means nothing and is a rip-off for students. NewSchool of Architecture stated that Southwestern College has a really interesting program, for ECO-building and that it was under Environmental Engineering. Overall, the committee likes the 160 class and stated that to have full certificate we needed a bigger program structured to support it. Joe asked if we should get rid of this Certificate. All members were in agreement that it is a waste of time and money and to get rid of it.

ARCH 196 – The committee agreed that we needed to add the communication component somewhere in our program. Industry stated that they have new employees who are afraid to make phone calls, texting and emails are not enough. Also, new employees are coming in without any experience in an office. The committee suggested internships, mentorships and/or shadowing. This could be something that possibly AIA could help with. Industry members also stated asked if we teach Vectorworks. There was discussion as to what programs were used in the offices of industry and what was being taught in school. There are a lot of small computer programs that draft, but AutoCAD and Revit are the best and most widely used. The committee also suggested a need for an industry survey to see what programs/software we need to be teaching our students. Both NewSchool and Woodbury said that they have updated their curriculums to teach concepts using multiple different software platforms. This has been made possible by using subscription programs like linda.com. Marcel from Woodbury said, “We teach our students how to migrate from one software to another in order to accomplish different projects.” What does industry use? DZN Partners uses REVIT, AUTOCAD. In general industry partners likes the approach from Woodbury and NewSchool to teach the ability to use multiple software.

ARCH 215-216 –These studio classes were structured after Cal Poly SLO for easier transfer. Dennis explained that recently the classes went from 5 units to 3 units because they (Cal Poly) are asking for more computer classes like Revit. Joe wants these classes to go back to 5 units. Going back to 5 would make it much easier for students to transfer to Woodbury and NewSchool because they have 3 studio classes on the quarter system and it’s more closely aligned to their curriculum. Their curriculum is based on their NAB accreditation. Studio needs to be more hours – as far as NAB is concerned. Joe asked how these courses work for industry. The Committee agreed that industry just wants to make sure that by the time students finish school, they are able to document the problem with historical elements and demonstrate competency. In conclusion of this discussion the Advisory agreed that the units can either be expanded from 3 units to 5 units, or offer 4 classes at 3 units each. The Committee also agreed that the name/title of these two classes needs to be changed to include the word “STUDIO.” ARCH 216 is the capstone class, not a “FUNDAMNETAL” class which suggests a beginning class. Studio is where the majority of the work is done to finish a Certificate or Degree. It takes hours and hours to get there.

1. Recruitment and Retention of Students

We used to have 500+ students running through the program – now we have enrollment in the100’s. Joe asked for suggestions for recruitment. The committee recommended to start with the local High Schools. Look for schools that are focused on STEAM rather than STEM. They also suggested reaching out to even younger kids and offer summer academies such as, Design JAM, a workshop for younger kids. Reaching out to the VETS was another suggestion.

1. Community and Industry Participation

Bastiaan spoke about the benefits AIA had available for Palomar students. The first benefit is AIA membership is free for students, only grads pay. AIS can help with networking, mentorship and possible internships. AIA has social events to help emerge the students in the Architectural Committee Joe asked if a student with an AS Degree would be considered a student still? Bastiaan said he would check into the question. AIA also does team training for licensure, job boards etc. AIA is very active in promoting opportunities for emerging professionals giving students a strategic approach to their career.

1. Adjournment

Joe Lucido adjourned the meeting at 5:14pm.

Minutes submitted by: Anel Gonzalez

Minutes approved by: Joseph C. Lucido and Anita R. Talone