

**Master Planning Committee
of
University of Alaska Fairbanks**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2008

TO: Steve Jones, Chancellor

FROM: Rich Boone, MPC Chair *Rich Boone*

RE: MPC Recommendation 08-04 – Colville House and Sustainable Retrofit

Student representatives of the Honors Program and their advisor, Dana Thomas, attended the April 10, 2008, meeting of the UAF Master Planning Committee (MPC), and presented a proposal for a sustainable retrofit of the house at 709 Colville (see the attached UAF Honors Program Proposal for 709 Colville House Retrofit).

The Honors Program, which consists of approximately 200 students, is currently situated in the Copper Lane House. The Honors House serves the academic and administrative needs of the Honors Program. Facilities Services' planned demolition of the Copper Lane House creates the need for the Honors Program to relocate, preferably to a house-like facility. The Colville House is a viable option but will need remodeling. As part of its move to the Colville House, the Honors Program envisions a retrofit of Colville House. The retrofit project would serve as a good demonstration and model of sustainability, provide a valuable student recruiting and retention tool, and help promote the development of an Honors sustainability curriculum. Advisor Thomas would like to see a classroom in the facility. Beneficiaries of such a retrofit would include the Honors Program, Facilities Services, and UAF at large. Draft plans have been completed by the Honors students and they have begun to budget requirements, with input from Facilities Services. At this point a more formalized design process is required. The Honors students plan to conduct a charrette in late September 2008, collaborating the talents and energies of interested parties and experts to create and support a feasible plan and to get a clearer sense of the costs requirements. The estimated cost of such a charrette is \$5,000.

The Honors Program asked the MPC to support: (1) use of entire Colville facility; (2) assurance that the Honors Program can stay in its current facility until the Colville retrofit is complete; and (3) endorsement of its proposal.

At its April 10, 2008, meeting, by unanimous vote (8 -0), the MPC approved the following recommendation:

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The MPC, in recognition of the importance of the UAF Honors Program, strongly supports the dedication of the entire Colville House and garage to the program and endorses the sustainable retrofit concept. In order to move the concept forward, the MPC recommends that the initial design charrette be conducted in fall 2008 to determine specific aspects of the design relative to maximizing the use of Colville House and funded in the amount of \$5,000.

RB

d1m/rec08-04ColvilleHouseRetrofit

Recommendation is: ☒ Approved, and funding provided in the amount of \$ 5,000
via fund _____, org _____

☐ Denied

Stephen B Jones
Steve Jones, Chancellor

4/29/08
Date

UAF HONORS PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR 709 COLVILLE HOUSE RETROFIT

Background Statement:

As part of the University's goal of renovating or replacing older buildings that have outlived their useful life, the Copper Lane House will be demolished in spring of 2009. This facility has housed the Honors Program since 2003. This creates a challenge for the Honors Program, a 200-member student learning community that has grown significantly in recent years, including expanded academic outreach through peer-led study groups.

As student leaders, Honors students felt that the Honors Program should play a leadership role in incorporating environmentally-sound practices. They embraced sustainability—an up and coming focus in university accreditation, borough planning, and popular interest—in considering how to approach the challenge of finding new space. Efforts to define and create a sustainable campus so far have been scattered and somewhat quixotic, with no project being carried to completion. The collective of Honors students realized that they were in a position to pioneer a successful project that would ultimately serve as a model for campus.

Outlined below are the goals, objectives and action steps that the students have identified to support their proposal to retrofit the 709 Colville House. With this project underway, the Honors Program hopes to see other departments on campus follow suit and focus on sustainability in their curricular and facilities planning.

The Honors Program wants an official resolution of support from the Master Planning Committee. We would like a commitment that the current Honors House will be available for use until construction on the new facility is complete, an agreement that the entire Colville House will be available for Honors Program use after the retrofit, and an endorsement of this proposal as a whole, the first step in creating a functional, environmentally-friendly facility that paves the way for applied sustainability at UAF.

Goal: Enhance the Honors Program through the inclusion of sustainable campus initiatives and curriculum that will ultimately contribute to creating a sustainable campus community at UAF.

Objective A: *To design, implement and maintain a sustainable retrofit of a university building.*

Action: Define the parameters of the project so that a demonstrable result is possible;

Action: Create an advisory board to engage the various constituencies currently interested in sustainable initiatives to participate in the project (e.g. Sustainable Campus Task Force, Engineering and NRM departments, CCHRC, TVCC Construction);

Action: Plan, schedule, and implement a meeting (a “charrette”) of local architects, engineers, and other planners from Facilities Services, CCHRC, and the Fairbanks community in order to involve community members in the design;

Action: Develop a retrofit design to meet the highest possible level of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification requirements possible;

Objective B: To address the space needs of the Honors Program.

Action: Identify an appropriate facility for the Honors Program on campus that will meet specific programmatic needs both now and in the future and provide a case study for sustainable building retrofit;

Action: Work with appropriate campus entities to develop schematics for the facility that include clean, efficient electrical power sources and delivery systems, the effective use of outdoor space near the building, water conservation, and fundamental elements of arctic design;

Action: Work with the development office and other appropriate entities to obtain funding for the project, finalize the design in conjunction with Facilities Services, and ensure the retrofit of 709 Colville is executed;

Objective C: To serve as a model for the community on sustainable project planning, implementation and maintenance, and enhance university curriculum to include sustainability.

Action: Include members of the broader Fairbanks community in the planning of the retrofit project;

Action: Hold periodic seminars for the public on issues related to sustainability at the Honors Program location;

Action: Provide opportunities for community groups and individuals to tour the retrofitted facility to see first-hand the sustainable building features;

Action: Involve other campus groups in setting up monitoring schemes and monitoring the efficiency of the retrofitted facility;

Action: Work with the Honors Program director to enhance and expand the Honors curriculum to include principles of sustainability using the retrofitted house as a quantitative model and active learning component.