Mission and Purpose of the Advisory Board
The Campus Planning Advisory Board (CPAB) is organized to advise the University’s decision makers concerning the utilization and development of the physical campus. The Board reviews proposals for new facilities and significant renovations or landscaping projects, and other matters related to the current and future utilization of the physical campus. The Board typically meets three times a semester for two hours.

The CPAB web site is a helpful tool for members and the Brown community providing information and resources for further understanding of campus planning issues. http://www.brown.edu/Administration/cpab/

Membership
The Board is chaired by Associate Provost Pamela O’Neil. Faculty members on the Board include Stephen Foley, Steven Hamburg (Vice Chair), Steven Lubar, and John Stein. Staff members include Bonnie Buzzell and Peter Neivert. Kevin McDonald is the undergraduate representative. Regina Grebla is a member from the Graduate School and David Elson represents medical students. Ex Officio members of the Board are Rebecca Barnes, Stephen Maiorisi, Michael McCormick, Clifford Resnick, and Richard Spies.

Members have staggered terms so there is continuity and some institutional memory. Meetings are scheduled to accommodate project design review plans and member availability. Meeting dates are determined to assure that we have three or four faculty members and staff and student representation at each meeting.

Meeting Schedule for 2007-08 Year
October 4, 2007
November 9, 2007
December 12, 2007
February 12, 2008
March 19, 2008
April 10, 2008
May 1, 2008

Focus of 2007-08 Year
This past academic year has been primarily focused on design reviews and planning issues related to the major capital projects listed below. All are in various stages of planning and design and CPAB meetings frequently feature visual presentations (schematics and models) by designers and Brown planners followed by discussion. Issues addressed by the Board include planning challenges related to the site, adjacent green space, building massing, exterior skin and interior space planning.
The Board is advisory in nature and commentary is typically lively and far-ranging. As the design process is ongoing, the CPAB often reviews a project many times before a design is finalized by the Brown Facilities and Design Committee and a project moves into the construction phase. Input from CPAB members is greatly appreciated by University planners and member advice is reviewed by the Provost who works with the Facilities and Design Committee on capital project planning and approvals.

**Capital Projects – Design Reviews**
Throughout the fall of 2007 and spring of 2008 the CPAB reviewed the latest design ideas for the following major capital projects.

- **Nelson Fitness Center and University Swim Center** – Design issues included building massing, exterior window and entrance features, and the maintaining of open space. Additionally CPAB offered advice regarding building height, exterior design features, improving the Hope and Cushing Street entrances, historic Dexter Wall, pedestrian flow through the green spaces, and visitor and bus loading/unloading. CPAB comments generally endorsed the many changes that now more successfully unify the buildings and open space including the current building height which is smaller than originally conceived. Members recommended that the landscaping be further refined to create more effective buffer space and to soften the massing of the buildings. The head/gatehouse concept was viewed favorably. Alterations to the Dexter Wall were discussed at length. Some liked the current configuration and appreciated its historical importance, and others felt that Dexter Wall is too imposing and harsh and modification to lower it would still honor the legacy but significantly improve the aesthetics of the area. CPAB recommended that parts of Hope Street near the entrances be devoted to short-term, drop-off parking. Members recommended that buses park away from the complex and that spaces around the buildings be used for handicapped accessible parking.

- **Creative Arts Center** – This project has continued to evolve over the last two years. The CPAB has played an important role in discussions regarding how the building interfaces with The Walk, Angell Street, and the Brown Office Building. CPAB spent a significant amount of time commenting on the design challenges related to a possible outdoor seating area, appropriate materials for the building exterior, green space planning and sustainability features. The relatively non-traditional exterior skin options and green roof have been generally supported by the CPAB and there is enthusiasm for the design which makes an architecturally bold, distinct statement as a center for artistic creativity. In short, the CPAB agrees this is a building that merits a “wow factor.” Members advised it is critical to understand and be realistic about how the spaces surrounding the building will be used. For example, the current plans for a small amphitheater looking into the performance hall are intriguing but members advised that Brown be sure it is functional space (e.g., sight-lines, multi-media accessories, Angell Street noise) or it will end up as a novel concept but underutilized space. The CPAB found this to be an exciting and dynamic project but did not feel the exterior planning successfully addressed the complexity of the site and surrounding green space.
• **The Walk** – The CPAB has discussed goals for creating public gathering areas, selecting the appropriate landscaping (including tree plantings), the screening of Fones Alley, and creating opportunities for public art.

• **J. Walter Wilson Office Conversion** – The CPAB reviewed and commented on design options for the new planned entrance at Brown and Waterman streets as well as discussing the importance of improving the accessibility and use of the entrance at Brown and Angell streets. The board reacted favorably to the current design options that feature an awning concept on the street level and the triangular, glass common-spaces facing southwest on each floor. CPAB was particularly encouraged by the potential to incorporate gathering space by the more effective use of the area adjacent to the sidewalk on Brown Street.

• **Mind Brain Behavior Building** – The CPAB reviewed plans by the designers and had discussions on the location of entrances, building massing, and the interaction of the building with Angell Street and surrounding buildings. To ensure the building is welcoming and the first floor is perceived as public, members advised that it is appropriate to have more than one “front door” as people will approach the building from The Walk and from Angell Street. The large massing of the building was of concern to some members and therefore setbacks from the street and landscaping (including mature trees) should be considered. Handicapped accessibility at both entrances was also an issue raised by the Board.

**Major Planning issues**

• **Historic Building relocation versus demolition** – As planning progressed for The Walk, Creative Arts Center and the Mind, Brain Behavior Building, CPAB discussed options for the UEL and two historic houses currently used as rental units for graduate students. While there was not a generally expressed wish to demolish the UEL or the two historic houses, many members agreed it is not prudent to move buildings closer to Waterman Street if long-term plans for the area are to construct another large building. Small historic houses may not work well next to large academic buildings. The CPAB felt keeping the UEL and the two historic houses needed to be evaluated in the context of the overall plan for the block. From a historic preservation perspective, members agreed that moving the UEL to Waterman Street did not make sense because it is a carriage house and therefore does not belong on the street front. The option to move UEL to 99 Brown Street (corner of Cushing and Brown) was considered; some CPAB members expressed a desire to preserve the well-used green-space that currently exists on this corner. It was noted that any one of the houses relocated to 99 Brown will have its “back” to Pembroke Campus and detract from that view/perspective. CPAB members noted it is important to consider the scale and massing of surrounding buildings and Brown should not try to crowd two houses onto a site best suited for one house.

• **Parking** – In the spring of 2008, the planning principles, findings and recommendations of the College Hill Parking Taskforce were presented to the CPAB for feedback. Sponsored by Brown, this taskforce comprised of neighborhood groups, schools, city and state departments and RIPTA is charged with recommending ideas to improve parking, traffic flow and safety. The board supported the general framework of the Task Force recommendations but strongly
suggested that it more closely evaluate refinements to the plan to better address residential needs.

Respectfully submitted, Pamela O’Neil (Chair) and Steven Hamburg (Vice Chair)
May 13, 2008