TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Budget and Resource Allocation (COBRA)
SUBJECT: 13-14 COBRA 4: Consulting Faculty on Building Development and Use
PURPOSE: COBRA asks the Academic Senate to establish a process for faculty consultation on new buildings and renovation projects.

BACKGROUND:
Consulting faculty about buildings, whether new or renovated, is part of the collegial process of joint governance. According to Article 4, Section 6 of the Constitution and By Laws of the University Faculty, California State University, East Bay,

The University Faculty shall be consulted on:
1. the planning and development of the campus and buildings of the University; and
2. the allocation of funds, staff, equipment, and facilities among the programs of the University.

Further support for this collegial approach is provided by the CSU Statement on Collegiality and the AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities.

Two quotations from the CSU Statement:

Collegial governance allows the academic community to work together to find the best answers to issues facing the university. Collegial governance assigns primary responsibility to the faculty for the educational functions of the institution in accordance with basic policy as determined by the Board of Trustees. This includes admission and degree requirements, the curriculum and methods of teaching, academic and professional standards, and the conduct of creative and scholarly activities.

The governing board, through its administrative officers, makes sure that there is continual consultation with appropriate faculty representatives on these matters. Faculty recommendations are normally accepted, except in rare instances and for compelling reasons. The collegial process also recognizes the value of
participation by the faculty in budgetary matters, particularly those directly affecting the areas for which the faculty has primary responsibility.

One quotation from AAUP’s Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities, section 2c (Internal Operations of the Institution):

A second area calling for joint effort in internal operations is that of decisions regarding existing or prospective physical resources. The board, president, and faculty should all seek agreement on basic decisions regarding buildings and other facilities to be used in the educational work of the institution.

At other CSUs, faculty is regularly involved in the decision-making process for the construction, re-construction, use, and allocation of building space. Professor Gubernat reported that she attended a meeting at CSU San Marcos where her colleague, a Marketing Professor and Secretary of the state-wide senate, described faculty input into the design of their building.

At CSUEB, however, consultation of faculty about the design, development, use, re-use, and re-configuration of buildings at CSUEB has been mixed. Some faculty report that they were consulted during the creation of the Valley Business and Technology Center and its space allocation, which faculty and COBRA appreciate. However, some faculty report not being appropriately consulted about the new building under construction next to Student Services & Administration. Last-minute proposals to faculty have included suggestions to move some departmental faculty into the new building while leaving others in their original space, thereby splitting departments. In addition, such requests are presented to faculty in an unreasonably short time frame for due consideration.

On April 9, 2014, Brad Wells and Jim Zavagno visited COBRA to discuss the building planning process. As part of that discussion, they outlined the steps that take place over a number of years to bring buildings from conception through approval to completion. In discussion, it was thought that consultation would be most effective at these points in the process: when a consultant is hired and the feasibility study is conducted; when the design firm is hired and a schematic design is developed; when preliminary plans are developed; and when changes to the plans arise during the implementation process.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**
COBRA recommends that the Academic Senate approve the following recommendations:

1. that the Academic Senate recommend to the President that future building projects on campus, both new and renovation construction, include consultation with the faculty at the appropriate stages of the process, as determined jointly by COBRA and the Office of Administration and Finance; and

2. that, consonant with its charge, and upon referral by the Executive Committee, such consultation be under the purview of the COBRA, which shall be responsible for ensuring that appropriate faculty representation is provided.