

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Background

Our architectural history reveals much about the evolution of Williams College over more than two centuries. Founded in 1793, with buildings dating back to that era still standing, historical preservation and architectural design are critical considerations to the college. In more recent years, environmental sustainability as well as universal accessibility and inclusion have become important elements of the college's built and natural landscape.

The rich diversity and varied quality of buildings, both in age and architectural styles, as well as the college's natural setting and landscape contribute to the learning and living experience, while at the same time presenting distinct challenges and opportunities for the continuing evolution of the campus.

Committee Charge and Work

The charge of the Design Review Committee (DRC) is to help assure that the college's architecture and landscape are both of high quality and appropriate to their context. Planning, Design & Construction (PD&C) will seek from the DRC advice and guidance on the aesthetic as well as other relevant aspects (e.g., historic preservation, ecological integrity) of Williams' built and natural environment. All capital projects (new construction and major renovations), landscape projects, major graphic projects, and signage that will be visible to the public should be reviewed by the DRC. The Associate Vice President for Campus Planning and Operations determines which projects will be presented to the DRC. For capital projects, the DRC will work collaboratively with the Building Committee for each project, sharing ideas and perspectives in the project's development.

The purpose of the committee's work is:

- To help ensure that any significant building, addition, or modification is respectful of existing architecture and harmonious in relationship to the existing landscape, streetscapes, predominant architecture, and natural environment of the design area.
- To help ensure that the preservation or restoration of the natural landscape and/or the character of the created landscape is appropriate to the site.
- To help ensure that designs are appropriate to the campus as a whole, while being mindful of budgetary constraints.

Architects will be required to make presentations to the DRC prior to the completion of Schematic Designs for any project in the DRC's purview. Following initial design review by PD&C staff, project development plans and material boards will be presented to the DRC for consideration of the appropriateness of the design, including details, materials, and colors.

The DRC may make recommendations as to site planning, landscape, building design, or construction that contribute significantly to the proposed facility's efficient use and conservation of natural resources. During construction of the facility, PD&C shall consult with the DRC concerning any changes that may affect significantly the design of the facility, especially its outward appearance.

During presentations to the DRC, the architect's team will be required to keep minutes, finalizing the minutes and forwarding them to the Project Manager, who will disseminate them to the members of the DRC for review and approval.

The DRC shall meet as needed. All requests for project reviews will be submitted, along with presentation materials, in electronic format, at least one week prior to each scheduled meeting.

Committee Membership

The DRC consists of the following members.

- Associate Vice President for Campus Planning and Operations, *ex officio*, chair of the DRC
- Four faculty members: two who have expertise in design, aesthetics, architectural history, historic preservation, and/or planning; one who has expertise in the natural environment, such as landscape ecology, environmental science, and/or sustainability; and one who is an at-large member with an area of expertise distinct from the other three faculty committee members. The four faculty are appointed by the Provost, in consultation with the Faculty Steering Committee. The faculty members serve three-year terms, ideally staggered, and may be reappointed.
- Vice President for College Relations or designate, *ex officio*
- Director of the Williams College Museum of Art or designate, *ex officio*
- Executive Director of the Zilkha Center for the Environment or designate, *ex officio*
- Senior Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction, *ex officio*. The Senior Project Manager is appointed by the Associate Vice President for Campus Planning and Operations for a three-year, renewable term.
- Landscape Ecology Coordinator, *ex officio*