September 30, 2002
Report to the Faculty Senate Concerning Architecture, Art and Planning

CAPP has met with the Dean, each Chair, and the faculties of Architecture, Art and Planning. The follow are brief items that we believe we have heard in these meetings.

1. Faculty in all three departments, as well as the Chairs and Dean agree that the three departments do not collaborate or communicate as much as might be possible and desirable. This suggestion has caused them to think about ways such collaboration and communication might expand and be helpful.

2. Each of the departments sees itself as substantially engaging in professional education. To each of these departments this means that each department needs control over its curriculum and a "core" curriculum such as is found in the College of Arts and Sciences would not serve any of them well. Thus it is not surprising that there is little student cross-over among departments within the college.

3. None of the three departments see an easy or comfortable fit within any other college at Cornell. This is for a variety of reasons, most prominently the professional nature of the education the departments offer.

4. The Department of Art and the Department of Architecture teach much of their curriculum in studio classes that are of limited size. In addition, the professional focus within these departments means that the character of the studio is an important part of the education, leading these departments to want to control who is in particular studios as well. Although both of these departments could offer more studios to serve out-of-major students if resources were available, when resources are tight, these are the very courses most likely to be cut.

5. The Department of Art and the Department of City and Regional Planning believe that points number 2 and 4 notwithstanding, there might be ways in which the education of undergraduates within each department could benefit from more interaction across departments. These two departments would like to engage in a discussion exploring these options.

6. The Department of Architecture would, as a first option, prefer an autonomous school. This department is not interested in exploring other options until this autonomous school option has been removed from the table.

7. Because of point 6, CAPP has written to the Provost to request clarification about the conditions under which an autonomous school might be considered. In addition, we have asked for some clarification about the objectives the Provost and President would like to achieve in the final disposition of AAP.