CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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To: Planning Board

From: CDD Staff

Date: October 21, 2014

Re: **PB #293 – Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Continued Review**

Update

The applicant has submitted additional materials for the Board's review. The new materials generally seek to clarify various aspects of the proposal and do not propose significant modifications.

Comments from Previous Hearing

The following summarizes some of the key comments and questions raised by the Planning Board on October 7.

Site planning and circulation

- General agreement that the overall concept of opening up the courtyard and providing a connection through to the walkway and JFK Memorial Park has merit.
- Relationship with the public realm is key – pedestrian permeability and access through the courtyard should remain open at all times.
- Sidewalks on JFK and Elliot Streets seem appropriated by Harvard with the proposed paving treatment.
- Review intersection at the Belfer Center entry - ensure sidewalk width accommodates pedestrian flow at this busy intersection.
- Enforcement of drop-offs needs assistance from Harvard.

Building massing and design

- Some questions about the architectural quality of the connecting buildings. Investigate opportunities to treat each connector differently. Discuss the effect of the "fin" treatment on each connector. Consider additional transparency on upper levels.
- Provide more detail on the appearance of the loading dock door.
- Review shadow diagrams.

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Landscape design, lighting and signage

- Provide more detail on security gates – architectural quality and likely operating days and hours. The Planning Board wants to see an elegant solution.
- Investigate signage options – needs to be more attractive and better presented.
- Encourage improvements to the JFK Memorial Park interface.
- The sunken Belfer Center entry could be an improved entry to the School and could function better in terms of the public realm.
- Need to clarify integrity of the allee of trees in the public walkway to JFK Memorial Park.
- Need more detail in landscaping plans.
- Need to see a lighting strategy.