After a thorough review process, the College has retained Murray Associates Architects of Harrisburg to design the renovations of the John Stewart Memorial Library.

Six architectural firms submitted proposals to assist in the planning, design and construction of the library renovation project. All visited the campus and returned two weeks later to make presentations to the committee overseeing the project.

After the presentations, the committee — chaired by President Mistick and including Vice President for Academic Affairs Mary Hendrickson, Vice President for Finance and Operations Brian Ecker and Library Director Kathleen Murphy — narrowed the candidates to three.

The committee developed a list of questions for other institutions Murray Associates had worked with and vetted the candidates through the responses. In addition, Mistick visited sites of projects the firm had designed.

The committee settled on the Murray firm, which was the architect for Wilson’s Lenfest Commons project more than a decade ago. The 70-year-old firm provides professional architectural planning and interior design services. It has experience with institutions of higher education, designing projects for Gettysburg, Elizabethtown, Dickinson, Messiah and Lafayette colleges, as well as Harrisburg Area Community College, and has experience designing libraries.

The committee was impressed with Murray Associates from the start, according to Murphy.

“The overriding factor was their principle architect and the stream of ideas that occurred to him just during his visit to the library building,” she said. “That was followed by a knock-your-socks-off presentation.”

The firm was the only one to bring physical models of what could be done in the library, “each very different, but each very appealing,” according to Murphy. “We just were all extremely impressed with this firm.”

The architectural firm will help evaluate the crucial role of the library to the college community, as well as explore how the library could be used as an information commons, combining learning with opportunities for support from information technology and other student services, including tutoring, writing and research assistance. To find out more about Murray Associates go online to http://murrayassoc.com.