COMPREHENSIVE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Overview

Auburn University Facilities Management is working to update the Comprehensive Campus Master Plan. The first campus-wide master plan adopted by the Auburn University Board of Trustees was in 2002 and was last updated in 2007. The Master Plan serves as the blueprint for the physical space of the campus. Aligned with the University's strategic plan and mission, the Master Plan is a living document that evolves with the changing needs of the academic and non-academic units.

This year, the University celebrates its 10-year anniversary of the Master Plan. During this 10-year period, the University has invested $1.2 billion to construct more than 30 major facilities, including the Student Center, Village Housing, the Shelby Center complex, Auburn Arena, and five more currently under construction. The Auburn campus has experienced a great deal of construction and physical change during this period of time. The core of the campus has been transformed into a pedestrian-friendly environment and an on-campus transit system has been established.

During the past six to eight months, Facilities Management planners and consultants have been actively engaged in discussing issues with community members and with advisory groups from the University Senate, Student Government Association, Administrative and Professional Assembly, and the Graduate Student Council. In addition, more than fifty college/school/unit workshops have convened to consider campus-wide space and resource opportunities. A number of conversations have taken place and will continue to take place during the coming year with members of the Auburn family to gain insight concerning a variety of campus issues.

Comprehensive Campus Master Plan 2012 Update Schedule

Summer/Fall 2012: Collect Data, Assess Issues, Develop Options
Fall 2012: Solicit Campus Input, Develop Recommendations
Late Fall 2012: Bring Recommendations to the Board of Trustees
Winter 2013: Board of Trustees approves Master Plan 2012 Update
Planning elements established for master plan

The Auburn Strategic Plan requires that the Board of Trustees be presented with a draft policy that establishes priorities for master plan implementation. To accomplish this action, Facilities Management conducted an online survey in March 2012. Members of the campus community were invited to participate. From the survey, the following planning elements surfaced and were presented and approved by the Board of Trustees on April 20, 2012.

- Academic Buildings in the Core of Campus
- Campus Landscape
- Campus Quality of Life
- Campus Security
- Campus Transportation
- Health Science Sector at the Main Campus
- Long Range Land Use Plan
- Research Capability
- Space Needs of Colleges and Schools
- Sports and Athletics Events
- Student Housing
- Sustainable Practices

Planning Consultant selected

Sasaki Associates of Watertown Massachusetts was selected and approved by the Board of Trustees in February 2012 as the planning consultant for the AU Campus Master Plan 2012 Update. During their June visit to campus, informational meetings were scheduled so members of the Auburn family had an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas as they relate to the established planning elements.

The first series of monthly meetings engaged the Master Planning Team with a number of AU faculty and staff. Members of the Master Planning Team include Dan King (Assistant Vice President for AU Facilities Management), Tom Tillman (Director, University Planning and Space Management), Jeffrey Dumars (Campus Planner), Richard Guether (Campus Planner), Greg Parsons (University Architect), Jim Carroll (AU Architect), Sarah Smith (AU Architect) and the Sasaki team of Greg Havens, Peter Brigham, and Allen Penniman.

The Sasaki team was brought up to speed with all of the campus changes since the last master plan update was completed in 2007 – Sasaki was the planning consultant selected for that master plan update. Since their visit ten years ago, the consultants were impressed with the University’s transformation and the tremendous progress achieved to date.

“What an amazing investment in the University’s core areas of campus,” commented Greg Havens, a principal with Sasaki Associates. “The living and learning communities have been connected to form a very walkable environment.”
Members of the Master Planning Team met with a number of administrative, school, and college representatives to discuss long range land use and space requirements. Discussions will continue on subsequent visits with additional faculty and staff.

Office of the Provost (front, l-r) Tom Tillman (Director of AU CPSM), Richard Guether (AU Campus Planner), and Peter Brigham (Sasaki), (back, l-r) John Weete (Executive Director, Auburn Research & Technology Foundation and Assistant VP for Technology Transfer & Commercialization), John Mason (Vice President for Research), Carl Pinkert (Associate Vice President for Research), Provost Tim Boosinger, and Greg Havens (Sasaki)

College of Veterinary Medicine (l-r) Frank “Skip” Bartol (Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies), Jamie Bellah (Department Head of Clinical Sciences), and Greg Havens (Sasaki)

College of Sciences and Mathematics (l-r) Jim Carroll (AU Architect), Dean Charles Savrda, Tom Tillman (Director of AU CPSM), and Greg Havens (Sasaki)

College of Agriculture (front, l-r) Wayne Green (Professor and Head, Animal Sciences), Greg Havens (Sasaki), and Dean William Batchelor (back row, l-r) Robert Hensarling (Director, Agricultural Land & Resource Management, Tom Tillman (Director of AU CPSM), Dan King (Assistant Vice President for AU Facilities), and Jim Carroll (AU Architect)

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences (l-r) Greg Havens (Sasaki) and Dean James Shepard
Discussions with the Master Planning Team in June were focused on the status of Academic Buildings in the Core of Campus, including the Central Classroom Building; Long Range Land Use; and the Space Needs of Colleges and Schools – all priority elements for the master plan. In addition, members of the Office of Sustainability, Student Affairs, Auxiliary Services, Utilities & Energy, and Athletics shared ideas for their respective areas.

The Master Planning Team will convene another set of planning sessions on July 24-26. During this visit, talks will continue with colleges and schools to discuss land use. Campus Security, Health Science Sector at the Main Campus, Campus Quality of Life, and Student Housing planning elements will be key topics for discussion.

Web Site Underway
A web site is being developed with more details about the master planning process. Look for the web address coming soon.