

Residential Campus Task Force: Sub-committee on Facilities Report.

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In researching the qualities of a residential campus, particularly as regards to facilities, our sub-committee considered sentiments expressed by Dr. Rallo describing a residential campus as a place that “creates an atmosphere whereby students will elect to stay on campus and participate in activities even when they might otherwise go home.” A brief review of contemporary urban design and planning strategies, wherein cities and municipalities are seeking to increase economic development opportunities, increase residential populations and revitalize the community; confirmed that like other business, ASU needs to identify its primary “products” and target audience and then build or renovate facilities that reinforce our “brand” and image. In short, we need to more strategically align facilities and environments with our university mission and vision.

The committee felt that the campus has made significant strides, under the current master plan, towards the goals of creating facilities to support a residential campus. However, there was at the same time, a feeling that we have yet to realize the full potential of this goal in that we continue to lack a unifying “flagship project(s)” that begins to bring necessary focal point and cohesiveness to the campus. In light of our work on this sub-committee, we would like to advance the following recommendations:

**Complete construction of currently planned major projects that are essential to creating residential “destinations of choice:”**

- CHP remodel and expansion.
- Library Information Commons.
- Hardeman One-Stop Center / Multi-cultural and International Center
- Plaza Verde Residence Hall and extension of the quad on the east end of campus.
- LEED and sustainability in building and renovation.

**General recommendations:**

- Design or reconfigure buildings and spaces so that they maximize *flexibility* of use. For example, configure classrooms so that can readily be used for meeting or program spaces outside of class time.
- Consider flexibility of use, accessibility, technology when selecting furnishings, equipment.
- Address issues of “ownership” of meeting or specialty spaces so that they can receive improved utilization for a larger number of constituents. (For example, some meeting or conference

rooms are currently reserved exclusively by specific administrators or departments. This practice may need to be revisited.)

- Cost of maintaining and refreshing facilities and equipment needs to be incorporated into initial design or renovation plan and on-going budget.
- Address lack of housing for upperclassmen and graduate students on campus and the impact this is having on tradition building, student leadership, and retention.
- Improve the conditions at the Intramurals Fields and SAY complex.
- Provide Center for Student Involvement a more prominent “store front” location.
- Johnson Street. Traffic suppression or street closure would be desirable. Johnson Street bisects the campus in an intrusive and unsafe way. It has a negative impact on the creation of a “whole” campus.
- Child care. Explore the possibility of providing child care on campus.
- Summer Youth Program. Explore the feasibility and desirability of offering a self-supporting summer youth program on campus similar to offerings by YMCA. Possibly combine or expand efforts from existing programs (UREC, Kids College).
- Integrated technology: Academic and non-academic facilities need to be “plug and play” and in particular, support *mobile* technology (charging stations, wireless access points, etc)

#### **Create architectural and visual points of distinction on campus.**

- Implement a program to install public art on campus. (Sculpture gardens, landscape enhancements, murals, water feature, etc.)
- Create a campus “trademark” point of interest (the current master plan suggest the bell tower concept as part of a plaza on Johnson Street).
- Emphasize and carefully cultivate use of green spaces on campus to promote active recreation and quiet contemplation. (Capitalize on the strength of the “park like” quality and beauty of the campus grounds)

#### **Expand number of meeting spaces on campus, particularly on the east end of the campus.**

- University Center has seen a decrease in the number of available meeting spaces recently, as space has been reconfigured for other purposes. This may be accomplished under General Recommendations.
- SOLF funds have succeeded in spawning the growth of student organizations, but now meeting, working, planning and equipment storage spaces for the groups (as well as campus committees and departments) are at critical mass.
- Ensure that meeting spaces are available on an expanded schedule to also accommodate night and weekend activities.

#### **Encourage a “walking” campus.**

- Create bike paths separate from pedestrian paths or widen current walkways to accommodate bikes. Provide strategically located and incorporated bike racks and storage areas.

- Bike registration. Consider implementing a bike registration program. Not necessarily as a “fee” service, but to aid in identification of lost, stolen or abandoned bikes on campus.
- Explore addition of a scenic walking path or tour around campus to provide fitness, recreation, “lifestyle” amenity.
- Evaluate sidewalk construction materials and placement to make them as user friendly as possible.

**ADA and *true* accessibility.**

- Strive for more than basic compliance with ADA requirements. All facilities should be fully accessible *and welcoming* to students, staff, visitors with accessibility needs.
- Develop a campus standard to define what “accessibility” means at ASU that improves the livability and usability of our facilities. We are not recommending a re-write of the existing required codes, rather we are suggesting more of a statement of philosophy of inclusion that can be realized in future construction and renovation projects. Examples discussed include academic buildings, furnishings, the Lakehouse, CHP, sidewalks.

**Academic and Academic Support Facilities:**

- “Scholars Lounges.” Replicate the success of the Honors Lounge by creating similarly themed, furnished areas in buildings that house academic programs that have been identified as strategic development programs. Like the Honors Lounge, these areas would be for access by students within the targeted major and would provide comfortable areas for collaboration, faculty/student interaction and socializing within the program.
- Continue to develop plan to identify and expand “classroom of the future” initiatives.
- Identify classrooms that are dated and rather dreary, and develop a plan for renovating/updating them. Perhaps place a priority on upgrading classrooms used primarily for “first-year” courses.
- Carr Hall. In the current master plan, Carr Hall is eventually scheduled to be removed from the Housing inventory. Possibility exists to consider relocating the CAE and Supplemental Instruction offices to a modified Carr Hall. This would position these important services (particularly for first-year students) right next door to the One-Stop building as well as providing them a central location with a near mall “front.” The change would also make it possible for the Honors program to expand into the current CAE space near the existing Honors lounge on the third floor of the library.

We have appreciated the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can position facilities at ASU to accomplish the goal of creating a “residential campus.” We look forward to hearing the recommendations of the other sub-committees and in working together towards a more thorough plan of action. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.