

Contact: Sheila Doyle

SUI CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Action Requested: Consider recommending that the Board receive the report and provide comments on the University of Iowa Campus Master Plan.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa and its campus master planning consultant, Sasaki Associates of Watertown, Massachusetts, will make a presentation of the Campus Master Plan at the March meeting. (Booklets of the Campus Master Plan, and the University's presentation at the March meeting, are included with the Board's meeting materials.)

The Campus Master Plan was prepared to guide the future use and development of the multiple land areas that comprise the University of Iowa campus in Iowa City and Coralville. The Master Plan defines a broad framework to guide campus development and stewardship; the framework is intended to provide a long-range perspective for use in making near-term decisions, and to encourage the orderly and unified development of the campus.

The Campus Master Plan is guided by six General Principles:

Establish a Unifying Framework for the Campus as a Whole – Organization of the campus in a coherent, unified manner with a well-defined, yet flexible, framework of land use districts and a system of interconnecting circulation links and open space.

Support the University's Mission – Provide a safe, convenient and attractive campus, to sustain students, faculty and staff, that supports the University's mission of learning, discovery and engagement, optimizes its function as a diverse learning environment; and demonstrates environmental responsibility.

Demonstrate Stewardship of Buildings and Land – Less emphasis on expansion and growth and more on the need to wisely plan for the renewal, reuse and upkeep of existing facilities and optimize the use of existing limited land resources, while adding necessary new facilities that expand and enhance instruction and research.

Preserve and Enhance the Unique Identity of the Campus – Develop, maintain, protect and enhance the unique identity of the University, both natural and cultural, through careful planning.

Promote a Pedestrian-Oriented Campus – Emphasize pedestrian paths, which support social interaction and contribute to the quality of campus life and the educational experience, as the primary means of moving throughout the campus while also minimizing vehicle conflicts.

Enhance the Quality of the Campus Environment – The campus should be developed to emphasize clarity, unity and beauty, recognizing that the sensory quality of the campus environment has a profound influence on the quality of people's experience, and contributes to the University's efforts to attract and sustain the best students, faculty and staff.

The Master Plan is based on five planning issues:

Facilities Renewal and Stewardship – Conservation and renewal of the existing physical plant.

Accommodation of Future Growth – Determination of appropriate locations for additional new building space.

Planning for Perimeter Land – Effective use of perimeter and adjacent lands to preserve the campus core for undergraduate education and research.

Parking Strategy and Utilities Planning – Integration of facilities and open space planning with strategies for meeting parking and infrastructure needs.

Quality of Campus Environment – Protection and enhancement of the quality of the campus landscape and open space while planning for continued growth.

Since completion of the previous Campus Master Plan in 1998, the University has constructed 2.4 million gross square feet of new building space and renovated 1.8 million gross square feet of existing space. This amount includes the construction of 280,000 gross square feet and the renovation of 440,000 gross square feet at UIHC.

According to the Master Plan, the University is currently planning construction of an additional 535,000 gross square feet of new building space within the next ten years. Included are the East Campus Recreation Center, College of Public Health facility, Hygienic Laboratory, and Environmental Management Facility, all of which have been presented to the Board, as well as the Liberal Arts and Sciences Building in the Seashore Hall block, and the Library Storage Facility – Phase 1.

The Master Plan includes a Facilities Renewal Plan which identifies priorities of building renewal projects based on need. The first priority consists of those buildings with a critical need for renewal; these facilities would be addressed through either renovation or demolition. The Master Plan recommends that demolition be considered only in cases where renewal will not result in useful space configuration, or where renewal will prolong the inefficient use of an existing valuable land area.

The Master Plan also recommends the identification of appropriate locations for additional new building space, particularly in perimeter and adjacent lands (Oakdale and Hawkeye [far west] Campuses), to optimize the use of the campus core for undergraduate education and research. The Master Plan recommends consideration of such perimeter sites for service functions, storage facilities, administrative support, and possibly medical clinics and some research functions.

The Master Plan identifies campus opportunity sites for future development; these include possible building sites where land is currently available, as well as sites with existing facilities.

The University will provide additional information and answer questions during the presentation at the March meeting.