

University of Nebraska at Omaha 2006 to 2015 Facilities Development Plan Interim Report - January 27, 2012

Introduction

The current UNO Facilities Development Plan, approved in June of 2006, builds upon the three primary goals of the UNO Strategic Plan. Those goals state that UNO will be recognized: 1) as a student-centered metropolitan university; 2) for its academic excellence as a leading metropolitan university; and 3) for its outstanding engagement with the urban, regional, national, and global communities.

Planning Imperatives

The 2006 Facilities Development Plan identifies the physical environment and facilities that are required to reinforce the strategic plan and support a ten-year vision. Through the input of numerous focus groups and with the guidance of a campus steering committee, headed by key campus administrators, a clear vision has evolved for the successful development of the UNO campus and the following physical development themes were identified to be critical to the future success of UNO achieving its strategic goals:

1. Develop student spaces that:
 - a. Encourage social and academic interaction.
 - b. Expand opportunities for technology to enhance the learning experience as a seamless and simple component of the learning process.
 - c. Improve, consolidate and simplify student support services at easily accessible locations.
 - d. Increase amenities for students in the form of recreation, structured extracurricular opportunities and health services.
2. Develop academic facilities and spaces that:
 - a. Draw the metropolitan community into the UNO campus.
 - b. Upgrade the teaching environment to provide flexibility and reflect current technology.
 - c. Reduce fragmentation of college departments.
 - d. Improve faculty, staff and student support spaces required to be current with peer institutions.
 - e. Encourage learning and collaboration.
3. Develop campus facilities and environment that:
 - a. Consolidate, renovate and upgrade existing college facilities to provide flexible, efficient and technologically current buildings.
 - b. Maximize the use of UNO's limited land resources.
 - c. Improve faculty, staff and student support spaces required to be current with peer institutions.
 - d. Meet the varied ethnic and cultural needs of the diverse UNO student, faculty and staff.
 - e. Creates a sense of pride, attachment and participation.
 - f. Simplify parking and traffic circulation for all of the UNO campuses.
 - g. Meet the highest University and professional standards of design, accessibility,

sustainability, functionality and safety.

- h. Enhance the campus environment increasing campus green space, central gathering spaces, landmarks and entry points.

Plan Progress, Adjustments and Future Considerations

UNO has made tremendous progress in constructing, renovating and planning for facilities identified to meet the themes and goals identified in the 2006 plan. Over the past five years UNO has:

- Added 832,000 total square feet of facilities, with 238,000 square feet being academic space.
- Renovated 976,000 square feet of space, with 747,000 being academic space.
- Renovated over half (54%) of our academic space and added another 17%.
- Utility infrastructure has been upgraded with LB 605 funding to meet the demands on the Dodge Campus.
- Sixty acres of property was acquired south of Center Street from the NU Foundation and Douglas County to accommodate plans for campus athletic and recreation facilities.

A summary of the interim progress on projects identified in the 2006 plan, adjustments that have occurred and a look into the next planning period follows:

Theme 1 - Development of Student Spaces

Accomplishments

- **Renovation and Addition to Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building (HPER)** – Funded by student fees this project added 85,000 square feet of fitness and recreation space and renovated portions of the existing 165,000 square foot building. The facility provides state-of-the-art fitness and recreation space, improved spaces for related education programs, and a new home for Student Health Services. The facility has become a major social gathering and study space.
- **Maverick Village Student Housing** – This project was completed in 2008 and added 384 beds on the Dodge Campus.
- **Scott Court Student Housing** – This project added 480 beds on the Pacific Campus in Fall 2011. Opening of this facility brings the UNO residence hall capacity to 2,088 beds.
- **University Life Complex** – This project was approved by the Board of Regents in 2008 with a program to create campus sports venues on the Center Campus that served UNO athletics, campus recreation and intramurals. In addition, the complex will provide opportunities to serve the local community. The project included venues for baseball, softball, soccer, multi-purpose fields, an ice facility and potentially tennis. Renovations to the existing dome facility for recreation and sports team practice space as well as the construction of three multi-purpose fields, one serving as the performance field for UNO Women's Soccer, were completed in 2007.

Interim Adjustments

- **University Village Student Housing** – In 2010 UNO acquired ownership of the 575 bed facility constructed by a national developer in 1999.
- **Renovation of the Hayden House for the University Welcome Center** – The renovation of an iconic campus building was completed in 2010 and consolidates recruitment services and

new student orientation activities. The facility now meets fire and accessibility codes.

- **UNO Athletic Venues** – With the move to Division I, a national consultant has been retained to review all current athletic venues including opportunities for repurposing Caniglia Field on the Dodge Campus for soccer programs. In addition, they will assess potential sports venues on the Center Campus site.

Future

- **Sapp Field House Renovation** – Sapp Field House will be repurposed to accommodate the redeveloped athletic program needs for locker rooms, meeting space, academic advising, and performance venue improvements for the women’s volleyball and basketball teams.

Theme 2 - Develop Academic facilities and spaces

Accomplishments

- **Criss Library Renovation and Khan Addition** – A privately funded 30,000 square foot addition was completed in 2006 and a renovation of the 1976 facility was completed in 2008 through LB 605 funding. The Criss Library has documented that weekday usage increased from 1,500 to nearly 5,000 users/day immediately following the opening of the addition.
- **Renovation and Addition for College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS)** – Completed in 2007 the renovation and Addition to the former Engineering Building for CPACS united nine college programs located in eight separate facilities scattered across the Dodge campus. The Collaborating Commons has become a major campus and community resource for state-of-the-art meeting space.
- **Mammel Hall** – The new 120,000 square foot home of the College of Business Administration (CBA) was opened in 2010 and sets off a chain of projects that repurpose Roskens Hall (former CBA) and Kayser Hall (former College of Education). Mammel Hall became the first LEED Gold certified facility in the University of Nebraska system.
- **Roskens Hall Renovation for the College of Education** – Moving from Kayser Hall to the newly renovated Roskens Hall increased College of Education program space by nearly 50%.
- **Kayser Hall Repurposing Project** – The Kayser Hall repurposing provides needed space for programs that have developed over the past 3-5 years and were housed in spaces throughout the Dodge Campus. This space provides a significant improvement for the Thompson Learning Center, First Year Experience, Jim and Shirley Young Scholars, Honors Program, Project Achieve, computing labs, and the Testing Center. Facilities Management and Planning has staff located in four separate sites and the move to Kayser unites those programs for the first time. All of these moves provide additional opportunities, in Arts and Sciences Hall, Eppley Administration and CPACS to accommodate space deficiencies for programs in those facilities.
- **Renovation of the Peter Kiewit Institute** - The 2012 renovation of the Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI) is the initial step in achieving the two primary 2020 goals of the Institute: 1) grow PKI academic programs to meet estimated demand for PKI graduates by at least 50 percent and 2) grow PKI research program fivefold, from \$4.5 M to over \$20 M in annual research. The PKI Remodel project is currently in design and will repurpose and remodel 54,000 net square feet.

Interim Adjustments

- **Community Engagement Center** – Scheduled for a Spring 2012 groundbreaking, the

Community Engagement Center (CEC) will serve as a living laboratory for effective community engagement in a 60,000 square foot facility on the Dodge Campus. The CEC will link civic initiatives, nonprofit and business organizations, high schools, and faculty/staff/students, maximizing opportunities to partner, create synergies, and share costs and expertise. The center will provide a home for public service resource center, the Service Learning Academy, a new public service student leadership program, and a staging area for community engagement initiatives.

- **Biomechanics Research Facility** – This is a privately funded project that will construct a new biomedical research facility of approximately 20,500 square feet to house the Biomechanics Research Facility (BRF). The BRF is a research facility where engineers, scientists, and clinicians gather to gain insights on healthy and abnormal human movement patterns. The NBCF is currently housed in 3,000 square feet of space in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Building that does not allow for the use of state-of-the-art biomedical research technologies and that limits and/or delays the amount of research that can be conducted. With Board of Regents approval in January of 2012 the project will be completed in August of 2013.

Off-site

- **Environmental Research / Education Center** – Allwine Prairie Preserve is the focus of the Glacier Creek Project. The education and research facility, scheduled for completion in late 2012, is being developed from an 1890's historic dairy barn that was donated to UNO in 2011. The barn will be moved from its present location to Allwine Prairie where it will be upgraded to accommodate lab, lecture, and basic utilities for the preserve.
- **Elkhorn River Research Station** - The Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory (ATL) partnered with the Papio-Missouri River NRD to construct the 80 square foot Elkhorn River Research Station (ERRS) facility on the banks of the Elkhorn River.

Future

- **Addition to the Peter Kiewit Institute** - As enrollments and research activities grow, the PKI plans an expansion of the existing building to the southwest. Expansion studies suggest that a three-story expansion of approximately 110,000 SF would be possible on this site.
- **Addition to Weber Fine Arts for Radio/TV and Communications Programs** – Radio/TV are currently located in CPACS and Communications in ASH. This would unite those programs in CFAM and create backfill space for CPACS and Arts and Sciences.
- **Renovation and Addition to Strauss Performing Arts Center** – This project will add space for practice and recital that was planned with the original building in 1973 and also renovates a 40-year old high-use facility.
- **Renovation of Durham Science Center**
- **Development of an additional science facility west of the current Durham Science Center**
- **Proscenium Theater Addition to Weber Fine Arts**

Theme 3 - Develop Campus Facilities and Environment

Accomplishments

- **Campus Parking Improvements** – Parking Structure 2 (PS2) with 900 spaces was completed with the Maverick Village Housing project in 2008. Lot 9 on the Pacific Campus was

completed in 2010, adding 215 surface parking spaces and UNO partnered with the City of Omaha to add 50 spaces along Pine Street on the Pacific Campus. The agreement with Crossroads for use of 1,200 spaces has been extended for three years.

- **Expand the Capacity of the Dodge Campus Central Utility Plant** – LB 605 funded new chillers that increased cooling capacity by 500 tons at the Central Utility Plant (CUP) on the Dodge Campus. In addition, the project replaced two boilers with more efficient equipment and at the same time replaced circulating pumps and control systems.

Interim Adjustments

- **Campus Parking Improvements** – UNO engaged a parking and transportation consultant to review campus parking and mobility between campuses from Dodge to Center. UNO partnered with the City of Omaha and Aksarben Village to assess options for improving travel from Dodge to Center as well as access to the Dodge Campus from Dodge Street
- **Visitor Parking** - The Community Engagement Center project will provide for 150 dedicated community/visitor parking in the middle of the Dodge Campus
- **Utility Master Plan Update and Renewable Energy Opportunity Plan** – These plans evaluate opportunities for UNO to meet future utility loads through energy efficiency, renewable energy opportunities or by expanding the existing plant in the most economically responsible manner possible.
- **Campus Wayfinding Plan** - Campus Wayfinding study has been completed and implementation of a new signage and information access strategy is in the implementation stage.
- **Scott Technology Center** – A new energy plant is currently under construction for the STC. Preliminary discussions with the Center support potential partnership opportunities that could make utility capacity available to the Pacific Campus.

Future

- **Campus Parking Improvements** – Parking and mobility studies indicate that UNO has an adequate inventory of parking spaces to accommodate the current campus. Changes in the agreement with Crossroads and new enrollment objectives will necessitate the development of additional parking or parking alternatives. Both studies have identified multiple options for improved campus parking and mobility between Dodge and Center. The Center Campus development provides the opportunity for 1,000 additional surface parking spaces. Sites for seven parking structures have been identified for all three campuses. Parking must be a significant factor in UNO's long range planning process so that faculty, staff, students and visitors on and off campus are accommodated in an effective and efficient manner.
- **Improve Vehicular and Pedestrian Connections** – Travel from Dodge to Center, through Elmwood Park and Aksarben Village, presents significant challenges for UNO. Future planning will need to consider alternative forms of transportation including busing, biking, and possibly people-mover systems. Improvements will be explored to shuttle routes, circulator roadways, bike and pedestrian pathways. Constructing a connecting road and pedestrian circulator that connects property on the west and east side of the Papio Creek will be required to maximize the development of the Center Campus. The City of Omaha transportation master plan identifies opportunities for improvements to Dodge Street and the Aksarben Village area that could improve access to the Dodge Campus and movement

from Dodge Street to Center Street.

- **Development of property east of the Papio Creek** - The UN Foundation property east of the Papio Creek is currently earmarked for university outreach opportunities.
- **Child Care Facility** – Replace the current facility housed in a former residence on the Dodge Campus with a modern facility with expanded capacity.
- **Develop a strong landscaped pedestrian spine between Mammel Hall and PKI**
- **Identify potential future building sites on all campuses**
- **Continue relationships with the Aksarben Village development and attempts to develop opportunities with First Data Resources**

Growth Goals

- **Increase enrollment to 20,000 by 2020** – The highest priority for achieving this goal will be the development and implementation of a comprehensive enrollment management plan. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is leading a campus team to create a enrollment management plan for 2020 which will address access issues, target populations for enrollment growth, goals for retention and graduation rates, and faculty and staff increases necessary to support a cultural of excellence. The base plan will be in place by Fall 2012 and will be reviewed and adjusted according to progress, shifts in the market place, and in the higher education landscape.
- **Increase Student Housing to 20%** - As the campus grows UNO will need to provide additional on-campus housing to better align UNO with other metropolitan peers. Planning is to consider an additional 1,900 beds.
- **Increase Research** – Research and creative activity is directly linked to the reclassification as a Doctoral Granting Research Institution. The campus has a \$25 Million target in extramural funding to support scholarly activity by 2020. Currently, even with the loss of \$4 Million in earmark funding, UNO is at \$17 Million. Newly established programs and funding for student and faculty research, called FUSE and FIRE, are a great start, and additional infrastructure needs, such as a professional grant-writer should receive careful consideration.

Facilities Development Plan Next Steps

The most important task ahead is to develop a plan which recognizes the potential of the UNO campus and the physical environment that is required to reinforce and support the institutional vision. The input of constituent focus groups, lead by a strong steering committee will assist campus planners in clarifying the vision and the most important issues for the successful future development of the UNO campus. To facilitate this update UNO will engage the services of campus planning consultants early in 2012 to assist the campus in preparing the 2015 Facilities Development Plan update and set the stage for future opportunities.