Campus Planning Committee Notes:

The Campus Planning and Development Committee met to hear the traditional update from John Roberto, Vice President for Operations. The following is a summary of that update. It is apparent from this update that the Campus Planning Committee plays an important role in adjusting plans to reflect both faculty and student concerns. The most important item for the coming few months is leadership of the committee. We urge the committee on committees to appoint someone to the committee who is able to devote time to this leadership role.

John Roberto updated us on the final phase of the campus plan and Doug Johnston of Rawn Associates updated us on more general plans.

(From Doug Johnston) There has been a progressive evolution from this initial stick and pin survey of how the campus is used to a plan that tries to capture the more visionary goals and connect with the larger ideas of the University. Originally there were four goals

A. Enhance the “Intellectual Community” on campus.
B. Increase interdisciplinary connections on campus
C. “The research initiative”
D. Direct evolution through an understanding of *Patterns of Place*

To these four, two more were added

E. Active citizenship
F. Sustainable campus development

The last, sustainable development grew directly out of participation of the Campus Planning Committee in discussions with Rawn Associates.

The first issue Rawn Associates dealt with was the question of whether there was opportunity for the existing campus to grow. The answer turns out to be yes, but that was not obvious. The yes answer is within the constraints of maintaining or developing centers of gravity and natural flow, particularly with respect to the uphill-downhill connection. In addition, the constraint is to maintain the scale of 2-4 story buildings. Water and ledge issue preclude digging subterrarian floors in many locations. The only program specific charge to Rawn Associates was to identify cites for the integrated science building. The science building and the dorm and music buildings, already in the pipeline, were the only exceptions to nonprogram growth area identification. The conclusion is that the campus has the capacity for about one million new square feet. The master plan has evolved over the last year and a half. Periodic review with faculty, staff and students is now essentially complete. The master plan accomplished many of its objectives within the framework of the visionary goals set for it. From a strict campus planning perspective, it identified a number of the building sites which demonstrated that the campus can expand within the confines of its traditional boundaries in a thoughtful manner without adversely impacting the campus or the adjacent communities in Medford and Somerville.

Rawn associates identified several patterns of place to preserve
• Iconic places
  o The President’s lawn – to be preserved
  o The residential quad - needs landscaping
  o The urban block and hinge blocks
  o Linear area – Boston Ave, College Ave

• Edge areas
  o Athletic fields
  o Down hill residential area
  o North Quad
  o Hillside neighborhood

It was noted that Boston Ave presents the potential for tall buildings without sticking up.

There is a guide to avoid extensive linked buildings – only Adikman and, to some extent, the dorm crosses this line. Keeping open spaces, or views between buildings is an important goal. To keep from "turning our back on our neighbors” buildings should open not only to quads, but also to the street edges.

For unification, it is recommended that buildings are built of materials with a look of permanence – stone and brick.

Some problem areas from the point of view of circulation still need a solution. One is College Ave and Boston Ave intersection. An area of concern is Talbot Ave by the new music building and the new dorm. Tunnels and bridges were discussed.

The plan for the integrated lab complex consists of three floors in two pieces that will be connected by an underground piece. It is to be a multidisciplinary, multidepartmental facility serving both engineering and arts and sciences. The program is intended to be fluid, keeping at the cross roads of interdisciplinary work. The estimated cost is 200-220 K.

The plan for the church, recently acquired by the University, is to repurpose it to a multipurpose, multifunction facility.

Campus planning beyond the physical:
  • Make it more welcoming – remove chain link fences and replace them with low shrubs.
  • Landscape all along College Ave.
  • Create gateway banners so there is a sense of arrival
  • Facilitate uphill-downhill flow
  • Keep trees uphill of Sophia Gordon Hall – float the path over the ground to prevent erosion issues.
  • As a campus on a hill, ADA compliance is an issue. The gradient of the path to Sophia Gordon hall is ADA compliant – there will be an elevator in Sophia Gordon hall to make the last bit of the grade to Talbot Ave.
Input from the committee was very important for environmental and sustainability issues in the new dorm.

Parking was discussed. Jackson lot is the least favorite. New South Hall lot is an example of designing to aesthetics and function. Underground parking is expensive to build. South Hall lot could not go deeper due to water issues.

Also discussed was the connection between the Davis square T stop and Tufts – bus connection not as reliable as desirable, or as fast.

(From John Roberto)
Progress report
- We now have a boat house on the Malden River at the Wellington end of the river. It is a 10,000 ft facility.
- New dorm will be ready for occupancy by September (it must be). It was designed to pull Seniors back to campus and reports are that it is doing an excellent job of that.
- Music building will be ready by mid December (time table slipped a bit as is often the case.) Talbot Ave. will reopen by the end of August. There will be a sidewalk on both sides of Talbot Ave.
- Summer – the lower level of Cohen will be redone and finished by September for classes and practice rooms.
- Parking will be on line by the beginning of August. Intent is for resident student parking to go into the new South Hall lot. Adikmen will become faculty and staff.
- Deferred maintenance
  - Cabot will get new windows etc. Project expected to finish by December. Packard Ave. will be one way uphill (current plan, but may change).
  - Dame school – behind Elliot Pearson on George St. will house advancement, public relations etc.
  - Packard-Alumni house will be repurposed.
  - 200 Boston Ave contains labs and is being used to help with space needs in Arts and Sciences and Engineering.
  - Modest project to refurbish the dance studio in Jackson. Integrate it with the dance program in the gym. Should be done by September.
  - Reroof Jackson gym this summer
  - Old provost house will be repurposed – possibilities suggested include a faculty club. The general issue of repurposing of houses was briefly discussed.

Attending: Anne Gardulski
Jane Burnstein
Claire Conceison
David Feldman
Vickie Sullivan
Mike Eddy (student rep)
David Guss
John Roberto
Doug Johnston
Mary Shultz

Submitted for the committee by emergency Chair, Mary Shultz
Committee members
Anne Gardulski
Daniel Abramson
Jane Burnstein
Claire Conceison
David Feldman
David Guss
David Gute
Steve Hirsch
Padden Murphy
Alexandra Pryor

Ex officio
Kevin Dunn
Robert Sternberg
Vickie Sullivan
Yolanda King
Bruce Reitman
Barbara Rubel