

Master Plan Public Forum
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Question 3 - What physical or environmental changes are needed to enhance the experiences of students, faculty, staff, alumni, annuitants and visitors?

Focus on completely accessible, welcoming campus for ALL ability levels.

Community spaces that are inviting, easy to find, and provide amenities and services that appeal to a variety of groups – enhancing/reworking the Bone Student Center.

Use of the built environment as a learning asset for students to community members – more public learning spaces and hands on.

Better connection to surrounding area – make it easy for community to visit and enjoy campus. Improvements in physical connections, signage, parking arrangement (not necessarily more – just more easily navigated).

More student recreational fields close to the center of campus.

The path and visual experience of the visiting prospective student needs to be heavily considered.

More trees.

Better/uniform lighting.

A place where the students can gather that includes amenities they require but somehow not have various buildings/departments competing to be in that place.

I believe to enhance our student, faculty, and staff experience we need a new student center, football stadium, and visitor center.

More disability accessibility.

More gardens.

An attractive “entrance” to the ISU campus. More greenery around the outlying campus boundaries to make entering the campus more visually appealing to visitors and future ISU students.

Purchase and/or lease soon-to-be vacated Walgreens space on North Main – for University use. Enhancements similar to Alumni Center. More conference space and outreach opportunities.

More benches on Quad for seating – especially for our elderly visitors.

Better study rooms in the dorms; some of the current ones are too noisy, especially on weekends, to get anything done from Thursday night to Sunday. Similarly, few places to study on weekend because everything is closed.

Reopen University Street behind Fell Hall.

Better bicycle paths and bicycle parking.

More parking next to building.

Handicap accessibility (especially mobility).

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Green space – park-like greens – are good things to keep and expand (not another concrete monstrosity like “In Exchange”).

A general mission on making more connection between east and west campus. Seems like east campus used a lot more. Find ways to integrate both sides.

More attractive access to campus, particularly on Main Street.

Buildings with arts completely new or rebuilt.

Continue to improve access to public transit on and to campus.

Better lighting around parking areas.

I feel grounds crew needs to clear snow quicker.

Better core of grass on Quad.

Currently, our classrooms do not support innovative pedagogies... they support lecturing. Moveable desks... wireless technology, community/café spots. Improved Blackboard.ilstu.edu.

I am very concerned about what I see as a move away from a residential campus. With the demolition of Walker and Dunn/Barton (which were needed and the campus knew and understood the plan) and the correctly planned demolition of Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten with coordination for housing with “certified off campus vendors”. I am extremely concerned about the flavor of campus life, the undergraduate experience, and the new role of ISU within the state’s plan of higher education. Please make a purposeful effort to talk with mid-level and medium-high level residence hall staff as well as with Education Administration and Foundations faculty on the role of on-campus housing. I have only heard about these plans from the highest levels of Housing/Student Affairs staff – and the lower level people and students are nothing if not confused and disheartened. We need to maintain ourselves as a residential campus.

Build to LEED silver standard.

New facility for Metcalf Laboratory school. (Have you been in their locker rooms lately? They are awful!).

Media center (WGLT, Channel 10, Vidette).

Enhanced athletic facilities.

New library.

Facilities to allow remote learning and coming together for a week on campus occasionally.

More wifi spots.

Greater parking for faculty and staff.

More dining options for students.

Improve Bone Student Center for student use.

Computers in dorm rooms.

More attractive landscaping and staff to implement.

Master Plan Public Forum
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Cleaner facilities.

Less traffic – vehicles, both ISU and public should be “around” campus, not “within” boundaries.

Keep the fabulous landscape.

Our campus is beautiful.

More opportunity for alumni to attend athletics events as guests.

Center for Visual Arts and Centennial needs replaced, not just remodeled.

Residence hall living is becoming a bit outdated... look into alternatives.

Elevated cross-walks. My gosh – PLEASE fix this problem. Dangerous intersections abound across campus!!!

Has any research been done on the “classroom of the future” and how to incorporate the ever changing technology this is being used today?

Update current classrooms to support this technology.

How much focus is being put on sustainability in the campus environment? Is there a focus on LEED certification?

Prairie plants on the Quad rather than manicured and replanted gardens each year.

Enhanced electronic campus security and building access control.

More places for community building – in the Quad, in the Bone Student Center, Milner Library.

Move from industrial feel to learning environment.

Give alumni a reason to come to campus.

Continue to model after the Alumni Center and provide friendly/well-equipped meeting/gathering spaces for University and community. Does help to Spread the Red and earns respect for the University.

Better signage/maps to guide visitors, members of outside community.

Better parking - able to leave for lunch and find a spot when returning.

Student services located closely – Student Accounts/cashiers, Financial Aid, Registrar, etc. I have heard many complaints from students about how far they have to walk to take care of things – especially going back and forth between Student Accounts and Financial Aid (Fell Hall).

Student Accounts building portrays a negative image of the University. The paint is peeling off the building, no landscaping, leaves and trash in the parking lot, dated interior, lack of functionality in office space, etc.

Plant more trees. The Quad is done very well. But more trees are needed in West campus in particular.

A centrally located (on Quad) gathering place for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Williams Hall would be perfect – tear down the walls of old reading room. It is attractive, beautiful architecture and has lots of light unlike the Bone Student Center. All constituents would love this.

And outdoor amphitheater would be nice.

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Keep the feeling of history and past alive for returning alumni of all times of year, not just Homecoming. Keep something on campus to remind them of their past connections.

Signage – not just name of building – but what programs live in those buildings.

Students should have a more at home feel to residence halls.

Faculty offices and forums arenas where professors can casually mentor students.

Students, families, and visitors need to feel a total-family-homey-personal touches all over.

Security needs to be considered and accessibility for emergency equipment access and flow of traffic.

More retail venues interspersed through campus.

25 percent profit plus lease to ISU (i.e. University of California models).

Use decorative lighting.

Continue to promote sustainability programs.

Try to use a consistent theme or image with new construction.

Address your Main Street face to the community (Metcalf School on west side of Main Street).

Education of students that they should treat the campus as they would their front yard at home.

Make changes that lower the cost of tuition and expenses.

Stay true to the mission to educate people first and foremost; a lot of the other changes discussed just add to cost without significant enhancement to experiences”.

The Construction Management Program at ISU has evolved tremendously since I completed the program about 12 years ago. The construction industry itself has changed dramatically in the area of technology and what is now being required of graduates as they go out into the workforce. The Construction Management Department is still housed in the same building that it has been for many years and there really has not been any updates (other than life safety) to the building to adapt to changes in the industry. Adapting to industry changes should be a key feature of any cutting edge university. Changes to this facility are critical to the future of the CM program, especially now that the CM program has been accredited and is being recognized as an independent program at the university. In order to continue to attract potential students and continue being a top program that potential employers want to hire from, changes need to be made. Turner Hall is outdated and too small. A larger more technologically advanced facility would allow the department to grow, offer more opportunities to the students, and assist in the recruiting program.

Student parking needs to be increased drastically. There were several occasions where I was either late or completely missed class because I could not find a space to park (I commuted to class).

After working for a few years I have found that ISU produces Construction Management professionals that are far better than what they are initially perceived to be. I believe that this is because ISU has not built a strong reputation in the industry even though the graduates are top notch. While Mr. Rahn, his colleagues, CM Alums, and current students tirelessly sell the great academic program that ISU has, it is normally all for not once prospective employers see and are entertained, in the pitiful facilities we must endure. Just imagine for a second, trying to sell a top executive from a large company on the quality of your program when you hold meetings in a glorified workshop and interviews in an office that has not seen paint or new furniture in my life time. At this time, the students of the CM program are ISU's best untapped resource Illinois State has. A small investment in a new or renovated facility for the CM students will enable Illinois State to take its place as a top ten program in the country.

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More support for the Technology Department.

More locations for social gatherings.

A more-safe pedestrian crossing at south crossing of University Street and College Avenue.

A parking garage located north of east campus residence halls.

In reference to improving Turner Hall and Milner Library. These points of interest are not to discourage the University but merely help with feedback from an alumni standpoint. Also, for example, these items of interest are only made possible from the comparison of Turner Hall/Milner Library to that of the College of Business. As a student you see what environment can be possible when observing other buildings.