

Master plan holds future for the campus

by Randy Miller

Lack of parking, crowded classes and strained support services are only a few of the problems UNLV is facing due to the rapid population growth over the last decade.

Currently enrollment is just under 20,000. Imagine what the campus would be like with 35,000 students.

The UNLV Campus Planning and Design Review Board was established to develop a plan for the university's physical growth and deal with that possible scenario.

The board must develop a guiding document, along with the academic planning process, to allow space for a maximum enrollment of approximately 35,000 students.

In addition, the board must plan to use presently-owned land and make other land acquisitions if needed. The board will also combine academic facilities and buildings in appropriate groups, upgrade the visual image of university, determine the major university entrance, find resources for the purchase of artwork by the university, and preserve the university campus as a community resource...and the major cultural center for the metropolitan area.

The main objective of the board is to fulfill the university's need for new buildings. This need will stem from academic growth in the university. Therefore, the board must work in congruence with the

Academic Master Planning Committee to develop a plan for building growth based upon academic needs.

The board has also set architectural guidelines for future unified building design. It has suggested to continue the present international architectural style of light desert colors.

According to the guidelines, landscaping around the buildings will, "integrate interior spaces with exterior surroundings. Interior building spaces should flow naturally into outdoor spaces through terraces, courts, and walks that may penetrate into or pass under certain structures."

Attention will also be given to the development of shaded areas for buildings such as exterior courts, terraces, plazas, and gardens. Five percent of all building costs will be designated for outdoor furnishings (paving, benches, telephone booths, etc.).

Currently UNLV's campus consists of 335 acres. There are 130 acres landscaped and another 100 undeveloped acres. Future land-use plans suggest the campus will consist of: 50 percent softscape (landscape and undeveloped lands), 30 percent hardscape (roads, parking, walks, plazas, courts), 12 percent buildings, and 8 percent playing fields.

At present there is no formal entrance to the university. The location proposed by the board is on the west side of the campus along Harmon Avenue.

The board's reason for this choice is it is the only location with sufficient street exposure and length to create a significant entrance and image from traffic

on Swenson Street.

Traffic and parking will be drastically changed on campus. According to the board's long range development plan, vehicles will be eliminated from the interior.

A 10-minute walking distance radius (1,800 linear feet) from the center of campus is diagrammed on the plan. The university plans to have a tram system to help people get from the exterior parking areas to the interior of the campus. A possible route for the service is also diagrammed on the plan.

In order to accommodate the projected growth of 35,000 students, the board plans to expand the parking facilities.

There will be structures providing 9,000 parking spaces. Between 2,500 and 5,000 spaces will be provided between the main entrance and the new performing arts theaters (including parking garages). Various surface lots will hold 6,000 spaces, and about 500 spaces for limited parking at some buildings to serve handicap needs will be provided.

Monies for artwork in the proposed plazas and malls will account for 1 percent of the construction budget of new buildings. This will be called the "percent-for-art" policy. According to the board's long-range development plan, "Public art will give the campus a healthy, vibrant sense of place and identity for both the university community and visitors."



Graphics: High Budget, Rental Fee, Eric Raboin, Hoosier Wilson.

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News Briefs

Professor sues school over book

AMES, Iowa (CPS)—An Iowa State University professor sued several school administrators and the Iowa Board of Regents after he was barred from using a book he wrote as a required text in a class.

John Strong, an associate professor in human development and family studies, claimed his First Amendment and academic rights were violated because he couldn't use his book, "Unlocking the Communication Puzzle," as a primary text in his course. "The professor feels strongly that the university is interfering with his rights to select his own materials," Anthony Renzo, Strong's attorney, told the *Iowa State Daily*.

A student complaint in 1991 brought the matter to

the attention of school administrators, and a department committee later voted that the book should not be used as the primary text. It was also determined the book contained no bibliography or cited scholars.

Half-tuition students stay in college

HARTFORD, Conn. (CPS)—A program that offers local high school students a 50 percent discount on tuition at the University of Hartford is boasting a 91 percent retention rate, officials say.

The program, which started in 1990, offers talented graduates of Hartford city high schools a half-tuition plan for each year they attend the university. Officials credit the program's mentoring system, in which faculty and staff members are assigned certain students to counsel and

advise, for keeping the students in college.

Earned degrees could reach record

WASHINGTON (CPS)—The number of students receiving degrees at colleges and universities could reach an all-time high in most categories in the 1992-93 school year, the Department of Education said.

At least 490,000 associate degrees are expected to be conferred this year. The estimates, in the department's annual back-to-school forecast, include: bachelor's, 1.13 million; master's, 345,000; and doctorates, 41,000. About 75,000 degrees will be awarded to students in medicine, theology and law schools, the department estimated.

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