

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES**A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

In Joint Session with

B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee**University of Washington Tacoma Master Plan Update****INFORMATION**

An update to the 2003 UW Tacoma Master Plan has been prepared in response to program changes underway. The campus has transitioned from an upper-division and graduate campus to a full, four-year university. As a result, changes in programs are necessary to accommodate freshmen and sophomores. This includes planning for additions to academic programs, student services, recreation and student housing not included to as great an extent in the 2003 UW Tacoma Master Plan.

Presentations have been made to the City of Tacoma, Planning Commission and City Council. Both the Commission and the City Council have acknowledged receipt and review of the UW Tacoma Master Plan.

BACKGROUND:

In 1993, the University of Washington Tacoma's (UWT) first Campus Master Plan was completed and set the initial vision for a new higher education campus located in the Warehouse District of downtown Tacoma. This location positioned UWT to be an active participant in the development of a vital urban district.

Two subsequent major construction phases created the campus' current learning spaces, faculty and staff offices, and university library to support the University's mission to provide upper level degree programs to a population of 2,000 student FTEs. Anticipating steady growth of the campus, the University then completed a 2003 Master Plan that further developed the framework of the campus and corresponding architectural and landscape guidelines.

UWT continues to expand its program and services. In the Fall of 2006, UWT began to enroll freshmen and sophomores with requests from the student body to provide housing. With UWT's transition from an upper division and graduate commuter campus to a four-year full service university with student housing, an update to the 2003 Master Plan was required. This includes an update to the long term plan as well as articulation of the next phases of development specific to meeting the new mission.

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The major goals of the 2008 Campus Master Plan Update are to enhance the urban character of the existing campus and provide opportunities to strengthen a sense of community as a four-year, residential institution by providing:

- A central open space (the ‘heart’ of campus) and various smaller green spaces throughout the campus.
- Pedestrian connections up the hill.
- An integration of uses (between residential, student life, and academics) that will accommodate 10,000 FTEs.
 - ◀ The full build-out of the campus within the campus boundaries will accommodate 10,000 FTE’s with an average height of 4 stories.
 - ◀ Housing facilities will accommodate approximately 12% of the student population.
- A pathway aligned with a view of Mt. Rainier leading into the campus from the corner of 17th Street and Tacoma Avenue.
- Market Street remains open through the campus, and 19th Street between Market and Fawcett is closed to vehicular traffic.
- Careful consideration of accessibility in north-south walkways and east-west access.
- Opportunities for retail and private development, to include potential partnerships, are also identified.

In conjunction with this master plan, an infrastructure master plan is also being developed with a focus on identifying strategies for centralized or decentralized service, infrastructure updates as the campus grows, and sustainable strategies for energy, carbon, and water. The master plan integrates many of these strategies such as filtering stormwater with rain gardens and developing sustainability guidelines for buildings.

Guiding Principles of the UW Tacoma Campus Master Plan

To create a plan for a physical campus environment which supports the institution’s mission, vision, values, and future needs, the Campus Master Plan’s guiding principles use the three visionary principles and four core values from the UW Tacoma Strategic Plan as the framework.

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Vision

Within the next ten years, UW Tacoma will become a more comprehensive institution that will respond with distinction to the needs of the region, state, nation and the world. UW Tacoma will achieve distinctiveness as an urban campus of the University of Washington through its commitment to three principles:

- *Access to an exceptional university education;*
- *An interdisciplinary approach to knowledge and discovery in the 21st century;*
- *A strong and mutually supportive relationship between the campus and its surrounding communities.*

As the campus grows, UW Tacoma will strengthen its learning culture, research, institutional structures, and academic and co-curricular programs necessary to embody these three commitments and to uphold the standards of excellence, shared governance and academic freedom that are hallmarks of the University of Washington. It will also develop and implement assessment plans that serve as measurable benchmarks for institutional progress.

The core values of the institution—Excellence, Community, Diversity and Innovation—will shape the specific goals and methods UW Tacoma chooses to address these commitments and build its distinction as a campus.

Values

Our fundamental purpose is to educate students for life as global citizens. UW Tacoma is a distinctive expression of the University of Washington that provides access to an exceptional education for citizens who choose to live and learn in the South Puget Sound region.

We recognize that an excellent education connects knowledge across disciplines. At UW Tacoma, excellence is founded on integrity, dedication and collaboration. We believe that learning is a vehicle that advances students toward fulfilling lives and meaningful careers.

*Our community of learners is strengthened by a diversity of voices. Listening to the UW Tacoma community, we have identified four core values that guide us: **Excellence, Community, Diversity and Innovation**. We share these values and strive to live them.*

I. Enhance and Develop the Campus

A. Create a Unique Sense of Place and Identity

Create an aesthetic quality appropriate to the campus as a whole. In response to enrollment growth, the campus should retain and improve the character of the existing campus, open spaces, and views, while developing new facilities and outdoor spaces to support anticipated future needs for programs, activities, services, and gathering. Identify the elements and character of the

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existing buildings that should be expressed throughout campus as it grows. Design beautiful buildings and landscapes that consider and embody state of the art campus and urban planning as well as architectural best practices in an historic, multi-use district.

B. Develop Quality Facilities

Provide facilities that inspire, function well, and are flexible and efficient. Develop facilities, outdoor spaces, and infrastructure that are flexible, adaptable, enduring and responsive to technological advancements

C. Respect Its Stature

Honor the stature of the University of Washington and the historic structure of downtown Tacoma through a harmonious marriage of environmental design, planning, spaces, and form with the surrounding community.

D. Ensure Stewardship

Ensure stewardship of the existing campus, maintaining and protecting the value of UW Tacoma's physical resources, character, history, and open space. Changes to the campus should improve and enhance the value and quality of the campus, encouraging preservation of historic resources while allowing for the development of new forms and styles of building ultimately creating a rich, multi-faceted, inspiring learning environment.

E. Cultivate Funding

The development of a compelling, comprehensive, well-conceived, inspiring plan is essential to the cultivation of funding. Support communication of current needs, as well as long term plans tied to student enrollments and projections and regional economic and workforce benefits to stakeholders and funding decision-makers. Explore opportunities for public-private partnerships particularly for buildings and spaces that lend themselves to such ventures such as student union, performing arts, library, or sports and recreation facilities. Recognize that a growing campus presents many opportunities for the naming of buildings, interior features, objects, spaces, or outdoor areas in recognition of individuals or organizations who are the University's benefactors.

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F. Communicate Resources

Provide a variety of communication tools and methods (maps, wayfinding, signage) to inform, orient and direct diverse users of campus resources as well as the casual visitor.

G. Respect and Conserve the Environment

Value the environment and strive to promote sustainability through the conservation of existing buildings, adaptive reuse and design of new resource-efficient structures, and the operations and practices implemented throughout the campus. Strive for natural light in buildings. Become a model and learning laboratory of sustainability.

H. Include Public Art and Sculpture

Provide sources of inspiration for students, faculty, staff and the community.

II. Provide Access to an Exceptional University Education

A. Create a Model Environment of Innovation

Develop a learning laboratory of sustainability; represent an outstanding example of conserving historic buildings and adapting them to contemporary use. Provide new buildings to facilitate and support innovations in learning, research and service to the community. Innovation can be realized through an environment which is flexible, economically open to change, and responsive to new directions in learning and the nature of new disciplines.

B. Develop Interactive Learning Spaces

Provide collaborative, flexible, multi-functional classrooms and other learning spaces of varying capacities capable of supporting a variety of pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning.

C. Provide Accessibility

Ensure access to and within the campus, maximize appropriate vehicular travel, emphasize universal access pedestrian routes, and promote the design of environments usable by all people to the greatest extent possible.

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D. Promote Safety

Create a safe and healthy environment, with personal and workplace safety considerations integral to planning and design of circulation elements, buildings, and open spaces. Employ design elements that support emergency response/preparedness activities; provide service access that does not conflict with pedestrian traffic.

E. Encourage Efficiency

Encourage efficiency and economy in campus operations, with advantageous locations for facilities and adjacencies of uses.

F. Maximize Flexibility

Provide the maximum amount of flexibility in order to best accommodate future growth and be able to respond to and take advantage of unforeseen opportunities.

G. Anticipate Trends in Technology

Develop the campus that over time will remain at the cutting edge. Incorporate infrastructure that is flexible and adaptable.

III. Connect Knowledge Across Disciplines

A. Activate the Campus

Support the transition to a full-service, 4-year university, with the development of a 24-7 campus environment inclusive of student housing, student services, activities, recreation, and culture. Ensure spaces that promote active and passive activities which are safe.

B. Create a Live/Learn Community

Create a live/learn community through the integration of academics with student life, housing, recreation, and culture. Support learning, sharing, and discovery that occur within and beyond the classroom. Prepare students for participation in a global economy.

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C. Provide Adjacencies that Promote Collaboration and Interaction

Maximize opportunities for interaction between students, faculty, staff, and the neighboring community. Create a level of density and proximity of disciplines that overlaps and blurs boundaries.

IV. Create Bonds with the Community

A. Value the Community

Recognize the importance of the surrounding communities, and strive to achieve synergistic working relationships with these communities. Promote community access and participation that is diverse to improve the quality of life and public benefits for all.

B. Develop Community Interaction

Encourage and support the development of student, faculty and staff housing in the adjacent community. Subscribe to work-study relationships and possible development of adjacent business incubator space. Provide learning opportunities, cultural activities, and recreational activities on campus that are accessible to the community. Support appropriate commercial activity. Encourage collaborative ventures with the community through public-private partnerships as one option for the funding of facilities.

C. Support Public Circulation through the Campus

Support the pedestrian, bike and wheelchair access along and through the railroad right-of-way. Continue to support improvements to public transportation and maintain porous campus boundaries.

V. Support Diversity

A. Grow a Diverse Student, Faculty and Staff Community

The UW student body includes a significantly diverse community, representative of different ethnic groups, cultures, ages, and family structures. Provide a wide variety of services to support the needs of these students.

B. Celebrate and Enhance Diversity

Identify locations for activities, exhibits, memorials, art, and other cultural activities representing a diversity in form and tradition. The campus should

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express the nature of a dynamic institution of higher learning serving a diverse student body in an urban environment.

UW TACOMA SEPA REVIEW:

The University published a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on December 12, 1994 and a Final Environmental Impact Statement was issued on April 28, 1995.

The current version of the Tacoma Master Plan will be reviewed and analyzed to determine if the University can rely on the existing environmental documentation or provide supplemental environmental information and analysis.