Boise State University
campus master plan 2005
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Boise State is a metropolitan university reflecting the character of Idaho’s capital city - a center of business, government, finance and technology - and serving the academic needs of the state through graduate and undergraduate programs, research and public service.”
INTRODUCTION

President's Message

September 2005

Dear Friends:

Boise State University has made some impressive gains in positioning itself as a university distinct in the West. We have the opportunity to develop a unique mission for Boise State with the convergence of our metropolitan character, our traditional undergraduate teaching mission, and the research and advanced graduate study offered by our faculty.

This aspiration of becoming a metropolitan research university of distinction is taking shape in the development of our strategic plan. This blueprint builds on our existing institutional values and core beliefs and creates opportunities for our students and their future, developing partnerships, prioritizing our academic programs, building our research potential, and defining our identity.

An integral part of the merger of Boise State's vision and strategic direction is this 2005 Campus Master Plan. A similar effort in 1997 has served us well in recent years. It is the work of a Boise State Master Plan Committee and the Portland-based Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership. The document provides a campus framework analysis and a master plan that summarizes facility improvements through 2015 and beyond. Many variables exist in the implementation of our future course, but the Campus Master Plan will serve as a fundamental cornerstone.

In our relatively short 75-year history, Boise State has undergone a transformation from Boise Junior College to the largest university in Idaho. And yet, our most exciting times lie ahead. In fact, I think campus historians will look back on this time as a critical juncture in our evolution. The chapter we are currently writing will set a new course for the university and the community we serve.

Bob Kustra
President, Boise State University
INTRODUCTION

Boise State University has evolved over the last three quarters of a century from a small church-sponsored college in a downtown schoolhouse to a major metropolitan research university on a 170-acre campus with approximately 18,600 students and 3,000 faculty and staff. This evolution has paralleled growth in the surrounding community as well as a dramatic shift in economics and demographics. Today, Boise State serves an expanding and diverse group of students in associate, applied associate, bachelor, master, and doctorate programs. As Idaho’s economy has shifted from natural resource-based industries to high technology, communication, manufacturing, and management, the demand for new degrees and training programs and more convenient methods of instructional delivery places heavy demands on higher education.

To be useful in optimizing the configuration of facilities, the campus master plan must focus at least 10 years into the future. 10 years allows for a new set of buildings to be conceptualized, programmed, funded, designed, constructed and occupied. Long range aspects of the master plan look beyond that horizon.

The best method to define the campus 10 years into the future is to extrapolate from the present using the university’s strategic plan, and to consult the Deans on how they envision their programs changing in concert with strategic plans. This process has yielded four characteristics that define the character of Boise State University as a metropolitan research university of distinction and have clear implications for the campus facilities master plan.
INTRODUCTION

Strategic Direction

Public engagement, academic excellence, vibrant culture, and exceptional scholarship define Boise State University’s vision of a Metropolitan Research University of Distinction.

These over-arching goals for the university are a series of inter-related directives for the campus facilities master plan:

1. **Public engagement:** Effective engagement of external communities implies a more open campus and greater extension of University activities into the Boise community and beyond. Facilities implications include:
   - Establishing a strong and positive physical image for Boise State University in the community;
   - Strengthening the corridor between the campus and downtown to create an identification of the campus as a part of Downtown Boise and its business, cultural and recreational resources;
   - Identifying facilities on or adjacent to the campus to make visible the practical applications of Boise State University research; and,
   - Creating campus spaces that can be made available to external partners.

2. **Academic excellence:** Student focused, high quality programs imply state-of-the-art teaching spaces. Facilities implications include:
   - Creating learning environments that will attract and retain exceptional students;
   - Designing classrooms and other instructional spaces to accommodate a range of course delivery models and supplement experiential learning;
   - Building wet and dry labs and computer labs to support an increase in interdisciplinary programs involving graduate and undergraduate students; and,
   - Increasing the amount of academic space to support campus growth.

3. **Vibrant culture:** An inclusive, active and accessible campus implies a rich and diverse living and learning environment. Facilities implications include:
   - Locating facilities and designing common spaces on campus that encourage personal interactions among faculty, staff and students;
   - Designing flexible academic facilities to accommodate change, especially those intended to support research;
   - Creating facilities on campus that are easy to navigate and that encourage people to linger and mingle with each other; and,
   - Building housing for graduates, undergraduates, and resident and visiting faculty adjacent to the campus to encourage all-hours campus use and interaction.

4. **Exceptional scholarship:** Progressive research and creative activity, and graduate programs that have groundbreaking applications imply a solid and reliable infrastructure. Facilities implications include:
   - Establishing a serious academic and research appearance;
   - Ensuring quality facilities that attract and retain faculty of the highest caliber;
   - Grouping facilities to promote interdisciplinary programs and research; and,
   - Responding effectively and efficiently to create spaces that accommodate new research opportunities and trends.

Taken together, these goals and directives indicate significant changes in the fabric and behavior of Boise State University in the years ahead. All new facilities built on campus will be of the highest quality, and will be designed to adapt over time to changing academic and social demands. This master plan will reach as intelligently as it can into the future, yet the essence of a metropolitan research university of distinction is that it is ever changing in its demands; thus, the campus that supports it must also be dynamic.
The purpose of this campus facilities master plan is to provide a coordinated set of initiatives for progressive improvement of the campus over the next decade and beyond. Many of the principles employed in this plan were developed in the 1997 campus framework master plan which this document supersedes. The most notable change is in the redefinition of Boise State University as a metropolitan research university of distinction. The immediate consequences of this new identity are summarized in the four sets of criteria on the opposite page. The most profound changes in the master plan are in the proposed siting of new facilities to achieve affinities between interdisciplinary programs and departments consistent with those criteria.

The goals, objectives, framework plans and design guidelines are intended to assist Boise State University in planning for rational, orderly growth and redevelopment of its campus. An implied principle of this plan is that every new project must take its share of responsibility to extend or upgrade the campus infrastructure of paths, open spaces, utilities and other services. In this manner, the campus will repair and upgrade itself as it grows.
INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary

From its modest beginnings as an Episcopal Church-sponsored college in 1932, Boise State University has grown into a major urban university and is now taking another important step to becoming a metropolitan research university of distinction. The school established a close relationship with the local community from the outset. Had it not been for the intervention of local leaders, Boise Junior College might have vanished at a time when interest and support were floundering. The college grew in spurts that roughly paralleled the growth of Boise and the state of Idaho.

The demands on Boise State University are now greater than ever. The school fulfills traditional degree programs, but also serves strong applied technology training needs, especially at its Canyon County campus. It is a primary cultural venue for the City of Boise. The tremendous growth and diversification of the greater Treasure Valley economy has only increased these responsibilities.

Today the campus is at a threshold. Growth in the last 20 years has pushed its physical size to the limit of efficient operation. The original wisdom of a central academic quadrangle – with its green spaces, generous pathways and clearly oriented buildings – has not been followed with recent growth. Parking dominates the east and west sectors of campus, but still fails to satisfy demand. The amenity of the Boise River Greenbelt is not yet fully taken advantage of. Yet the Boise State University campus has a memorable environment. It sits along the Boise River across from the City’s most beautiful park, is within walking distance of Boise’s major cultural destinations, and has a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood directly to the south.

The proposed plan builds on Boise State University’s attributes and recommends that each new project - whether an expansion or a renovation - accept the responsibility to improve the campus environment around it. The integrity of the original campus open space, pedestrian and landscape systems are to be extended to the whole campus. An expansion area between University Drive and Beacon Street will accommodate the heart of research on campus, with science and engineering facilities grouped around state-of-the-art research labs. New facilities ranged along the Capitol Boulevard frontage will present an image of the metropolitan research university of distinction to all who pass.

Parking will begin a phased transition to parking structures that concentrate resources in convenient locations, minimize use of valuable close-in development sites and allow the campus to grow more compactly and efficiently. Vehicular circulation will be reorganized in tandem with parking, providing improved access to campus destinations yet allowing the campus core to be designed primarily for the safety and enjoyment of pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Framework Master Plan is a reaffirmation of Boise State University’s original campus concept: an academic institution in a park-like setting along the river. It is also a physical manifestation of Boise State University’s mission as Idaho’s metropolitan research university of distinction.
NEW ACADEMIC FACILITIES
1. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
2. COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
remodeled towers for faculty offices
3. INTERDEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH FACILITIES
4. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES - BIOLOGY
5. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES - PHYSICS
6. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES - CHEMISTRY
7. COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
8. STUDENT HEALTH, WELLNESS AND COUNSELING CENTER
9. COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
A. Nursing Building
B. Remaining Academic Space
10. GENERAL ACADEMIC BUILDING
11. INTERACTIVE LEARNING CENTER
12. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES/ COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (remodeled space)
13. 300-SEAT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
14. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION - NURSING/ PRACTICE GYM
15. EXPANSION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON CAMPUS DRIVE/
16. EXTENDED STUDIES EXPANSION

NEW STUDENT LIFE FACILITIES
17. STUDENT UNION EXPANSION
18. BRONCO RETAIL/SPORTS HALL OF FAME
19. INTRAMURAL FIELD/ EAST CAMPUS QUAD
20. INTRAMURAL FIELD/ WEST CAMPUS QUAD
21. STUDENT HOUSING
22. LIVING/ LEARNING CENTER
23. student housing, meeting rooms, classrooms, food service

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES
24. ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
25. REMODELED EXISTING ADMINISTRATION CENTER

ATHLETICS
26. STADIUM EXPANSION AND ANCOLLARY SPACE
27. STADIUM LUXURY SUITE/ PRESS BOX ADDITION
28. INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY/ MARCHING BAND OFFICE

CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE
29. STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS ON UNIVERSITY DRIVE
30. PEDESTRIAN MALL ON UNIVERSITY DRIVE
31. REALIGNED STADIUM DRIVE
32. UNIVERSITY TRANSIT CENTER
33. PARKING STRUCTURES
34. PHYSICAL PLANT/ CENTRAL RECEIVING/ MOTOR POOL
35. FACILITIES PLANNING AND DESIGN OFFICES

RELATED NEW FACILITIES
36. ALUMNI CENTER
37. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SITES
38. POSSIBLE FUTURE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES

EXISTING BUILDINGS
EXISTING OPEN SPACE
PROPOSED BUILDINGS
PROPOSED OPEN SPACE
PROPOSED TREES
UNIVERSITY ROADS/ PATHS
SURFACE PARKING

EXISTING BUILDINGS
EXISTING OPEN SPACE
PROPOSED BUILDINGS
PROPOSED OPEN SPACE
PROPOSED TREES
UNIVERSITY ROADS/ PATHS
SURFACE PARKING

INTRODUCTION
Framework Master Plan

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