Minutes
MASTER PLANNING COMMITTEE
April 24, 2009
2:00 p. m.
Cook Library, 123

1. Meeting called to order (2pm)
2. Minutes of June 26, 2008 approved with one change – add Sheri Rawls’ name to list of those “Present.”
3. Agenda approved unanimously
4. Announcements:
   a.) A grant proposal has been submitted by Dean Gandy et al for a Biomedical Research Center. If accepted, the Research Center would be located in the area that is currently the paid parking lot north of Owens-McQuagge and south of the Polymer Science building. This was already designated space for CoST in the Master Plan.
   b.) A grant proposal has been submitted by Dean Gandy et al for a Criminal Justice building. A tentatively identified location for the building is the lot behind Cane’s Chicken across from the tennis court.
   c.) Frank Moore, chair of Biology, presented to the committee the proposed plans for an Environmental Education Center. Though the plans are in the works, funding is yet underdetermined. The center would be located on two parcels of land – one parcel donated by a former USM faculty member (Mason Leon Eubanks) and the other parcel, the Longleaf Preserve, is already owned by the university.
   d.) Other: In January 2009, Dr. Conville asked the Master Planning Committee to vote via email to insert an addendum to the Master Plan to extend the Planning Principles to all USM properties (see Appendix 1). The committee voted unanimously via email to adopt the addendum.

5. Proposals
   a) Sculpture garden – James Davis and Jennifer Torres from the Dept. of Art & Design presented a proposal (on behalf of Susan Fitzsimmons) to place a temporary sculpture garden on a campus lot east of Marsh Hall during the Centennial Year.
   Action: The Master Planning Committee voted unanimously to approve this proposal with three conditions:
      • Drs. Davis and Torres must consult first with Bob Pierce before proceeding to be sure that the space has not been designated for other Centennial activities
• The exhibit will be temporary from March 2010-March 2011 and any extension will need to be reviewed by the Master Planning Committee
• The construction of the exhibit will be worked around Founder’s Day activities (that is, the construction will be completed prior to Founder’s Day and if it cannot be completed before Founder’s Day, construction shall not commence until after Founder’s Day)

In addition, the Master Planning Committee discussed with Drs. Davis and Torres the need for a Public Art Policy and expressed that the committee would welcome the opportunity in the future to review such a policy.

b) Commons – Dr. Conville read to the committee a letter from President Saunders. The letter stated that demolition of the J.B. George Commons building will occur this summer but that funding was unavailable to begin building the academic classroom that was designated for that space and funds would not be available in the near future. Dr. Saunders asked the committee to consider:
1) Designating the J.B. George Commons site for the development of a green space area that could be a Centennial Plaza;
2) Identifying an alternative location for a general classroom building that will be built at some point in the future.
Action: After lengthy discussion, the committee re-emphasized its commitment to maintaining classroom space as a high priority in the Master Plan but voted unanimously to endorse the president’s proposal in toto. The committee has set a 6 month deadline for identifying an appropriate location for a classroom building (October 16th is the deadline).

c) Business building – Dean Nail (CoB), Rusty Postlewate and Jim Eley (architect) spoke to the committee regarding the proposed new building for the Business College. Private funding has moved the construction of a new Business building up to the top of the Master Plan’s projects. Plans for the design of the building are underway. The building is slated to be constructed across from the Liberal Arts building and across from Artel Kelly Hall but the current footprint is not large enough for the four story design.
Action: The committee discussed the Planning Principle that requires that “Planning of future facilities will consider the displacement and/or replacement of existing uses” and re-emphasized to the presenters that spaces currently housed in the area under discussion would need to be accommodated before construction began. The committee then voted unanimously to recommend to Dr. Saunders that the current Master Plan be amended to allow the future proposed western extension of Southern Miss Drive south to be rerouted (as needed) so as to allow room to accommodate CoB programs within a four story building.

6. Old Business - none

7. New Business - none
8. Adjourned at 4:30pm

**Members present:**
Mary Beth Applin (Faculty Senate)
Cook Library

Mr. Ken Busby (Student)
SGA Executive Director of Campus Development

J.R. Robinson (Student)
SGA President

Dr. Dick Conville (Hattiesburg Planning Commission and Faculty), Chair
Speech Communication

Dr. Chris Crenshaw
Student Affairs, Residence Life

Clifton “Skeeter” Dixon
Chair, Geography and Geology

Dr. Cynthia Easterling
Provost’s Office and Space Utilization and Allocation Committee

Ms. Rita Hailey-Burks
Physical Plant

Mr. Bob Hopkins
University Police

Jeff May
Itech

Ms. Sheri Rawls
Learning Enhancement Center

Dawn Smith
Manager of Programs
Southern Miss Alumni Association

Mr. Fred Varnado
Office of Noncredit programs and Conferences

Dr. David Walker
Curriculum Instruction, Special Education

**Ex-officio members present:**
Sid Gonsoulin
Student Affairs

Mary Dayne Gregg
Office of the President

**Guests present:**
James Davis
Art and Design dept.

Jennifer Torres
Art and Design dept.

Hoppy Allred
Studio South Architects/Eley Assoc.

Jim Eley
Eley Guild Hardy Architects

Lance Nail
Dean, College of Business

Frank Moore,
Chair, Biology

Rusty Postlewaite
Head, Physical Plant

**Members absent:**
Pattie Brantley
Margaret Firth
Angie Godwin
Suzy Hebert
Sid Krhut
Mike Pruitt
Lisa Reid
Diane Stark
Appendix 1

To: Master Plan Committee
   University of Southern Mississippi

From: Richard L. Conville, Chair
       Master Plan Committee

Re: Expansion of Master Plan Planning Principles to all University properties

Date: January 15, 2009

This change is prompted by three conditions: (1) the Cross Creek Campus master plan and the Hattiesburg master plan being brought under the same Planning Principles (that have been modified slightly to accommodate this combination); (2) the Hattiesburg Campus commitment to acquire or lease additional properties to accommodate future enrollment growth and program development; and (3) the fact that many University properties are not now covered by the Master Plan. The first will provide for simpler and more efficient administration of the University’s campuses, and the latter two will ensure that the Planning Principles will be consistently and fairly applied to the whole University.

Change of understanding: that the University’s Planning Principles, enunciated in the Master Campus Facilities Plan, shall apply to all University properties currently owned and leased and to all properties the University will acquire or lease in the future.

To include, e.g., the Innovation Park; the Lake Thoreau tract; and the former Albertson’s grocery store.