MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE

November 9, 2011; 3:00 - 7:00 pm
November 10, 2011; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
University Center Room 116B
In compliance with Colorado state mandates, UCCS completes a Master Plan at least every ten years to evaluate the long-term capacity of its campus and guide the next phase of development in support of the university’s mission. During the 2011-12 academic year, the university has undertaken this process with particular attention to the growth potential on the North Campus.

During November of 2011, the university held two open house sessions for students, faculty, and staff to provide input on future campus development. Posters displayed analysis of the campus, planning principles, and initial sketch plans of campus organization at full build-out. Participants had the opportunity to comment on the work displayed as well as to complete a planning activity that explored how new facilities to support a 20,000 person student body would be organized on campus. More than 60 students, faculty and staff attended the open house sessions, providing a wide range of valuable input to the planning process. The open house materials and the UCCS community input provided during the sessions are summarized in this document.
Beginning in June 2011, the master planning team completed a series of workshops to enrich understanding of the university community and campus. These workshops included a series of focus groups, public forums, and working meetings with more than 100 students, faculty and staff. Analysis addressed all facets of the campus, but focused on the North Campus, a key site for future university growth. The findings from this process are documented on the pages that follow, which were on display during the open house.
North Campus Master Plan

At regular intervals, UCCS undertakes a master planning process to evaluate the direction for future facilities development. The 2011-2012 planning process incorporates previous plans created for the Core Campus and the East Campus and unifies them into a campus-wide plan based on principles of sustainability. Specific attention is given to the North Campus as a key area for long-term university growth and connection to the Colorado Springs community, as well as a unique environmental site that must be developed with care.

The Master Planning Process

The North Campus Master Plan has evolved through a series of workshops on campus. The team has held focus groups and public forums with students, faculty, administration, staff, community leaders and neighbors.

After providing input to the Strategic Planning process about long-term capacity, the team will develop a Draft Plan based on Strategic Plan priorities. After refining this plan based on input from the campus community, it will be presented to the Board of Regents in conjunction with the Strategic Plan in April.

Initial Master Plan conclusions will inform the Strategic Plan about development priorities and site capacity.

The Master and Strategic Plans will be jointly presented to the Board of Regents for approval in April.
TRANS榔PMENT AND PARKING

Parking
Parking on campus is divided between hub, resident and free spaces, with visitor parking allowed in designated areas. While there is a significant parking resource in the core of campus, it can often be difficult to find parking during peak times.

UCCS Shuttles
UCCS operates an internal shuttle from Alpine Village to University Hall. The parking shuttle transports people from the Four Diamonds parking lot to Centennial Hall, but is often slowed by traffic on N. Nevada Avenue and Austin Bluffs Parkway.

UCCS Population and City Bus Service
- Approximate location of student, faculty or staff residence
  - City of Colorado Springs
- City bus route
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Transit
Most students, faculty and staff arrive on campus in single-occupant vehicles. Two city bus routes serve the campus, but because the UCCS population is very evenly dispersed throughout the region, it is difficult for transit to serve significant portions of the university population. This pattern means automobiles (and parking) will always be needed, but every effort should be made to increase the viability of alternative modes of transportation. The City has developed plans for a streetcar system that might extend along N. Nevada Avenue, serving the North Campus in later phases.

The parking garage holds more than 650 cars, 19 percent of the parking on campus.

*Area of the circle is proportional to the number of spaces.
Enrollment History
Since 1965, UCCS has grown steadily to over 9,000 students today. The Strategic Plan will help direct how quickly enrollment will grow in the future.

Assessment of Existing Space
For a university of its size, state and national guidelines suggest that UCCS has slight surpluses of instructional space but deficits in facilities for support and student life. The guidelines give a broad sense of the amount of space needed, but are not meant to suggest that all the spaces are the right type.

Potential Future Space Needs
With more students, the university will need to provide more facilities. The campus capacity to hold these facilities may constrain enrollment growth.

Trends
The waiting list to live on campus indicates its popularity. As the university grows, more students will come from out of the area, increasing the demand for residence halls and the amount of space the university needs to provide.

Online courses are becoming more popular, even for students living on campus. While this trend may reduce the need for classrooms slightly, the university will still need recreation facilities, student union, and faculty office space to support students.
Topography

Significant topographic changes give character to the North Campus. While the site rises 440’ from high point to low point, the elevation change from Four Diamonds to Alpine Village is a much more manageable 160’.

Steep Slopes

Steep slopes pose construction challenges that influence the cost of building new facilities and their environmental impacts. As a result, development should not be located in areas of steep slope. Surface parking and athletic fields need especially flat land and should be sited in areas with gentle slope.
Geology

Four of the site’s geologic formations, found in upper elevations and areas of steep slope, should be preserved. The first three listed below pose constructability challenges, while the lower member of the Laramie Formation should be preserved due to its uniqueness in the region.

- Upper part of the Dawson Formation
- Upper member of the Laramie Formation
- Middle sandstone member of the Laramie Formation
- Lower member of the Laramie Formation

Soils

The soils found on the North Campus are different from those found in the Core Campus. They are highly erodible and pose constructability challenges that will require special consideration and care during design and construction processes. The Kutch soil, in particular, will be the most challenging to develop.
Native Vegetation

Unique native plant communities are found across a significant portion of the North Campus. The northeastern portion of the site, around the Heller Center, connects to regional open space amenities and is considered the most sensitive. The landscape communities to the south are discontinuous and less critical to preserve.

Disturbed Vegetation

Vegetation has already been disturbed along N. Nevada Avenue as the land has been altered. These sites are priority development sites for higher intensity uses.
Cultural Resources

Erosion has uncovered artifacts on several zones throughout the North Campus and students in the Anthropology Department are in the process of excavating select areas. However, researchers suspect that artifacts could be found across the North Campus. As a result, soils must be monitored during construction. Once excavation is completed, the sites can be turned over to other campus uses.

Hydrology

The topography forms three drainage basins across the site. Vegetated arroyos convey water from higher elevations to lower elevations, serving as natural edges to development and as recreational and environmental amenities to the university and Colorado Springs communities.
Based on what was learned from focus groups and analysis, the master planning team produced a concept plan reflecting key principles the plan should follow. Two initial sketch plans explore how the campus might be organized in alignment with those principles at its full build-out capacity; the core of the campus might shift either east or north over time. The plans were on display during the open house to spark discussion about how different areas of the campus could be used in the future and are not considered finalized proposals.
Existing Campus Organization

Today’s UCCS campus includes an academic core and student life area all within a ten minute walk of the center of campus and connected by a pedestrian spine and served by parking in the core. Students and faculty can easily move between classes and activities located in the core within 10 minutes.

University activities extend east to University Hall and northwest to the Four Diamonds Athletic Complex, located across North Nevada Avenue from the new development at University Village. While these uses are important to the functioning of the campus, they feel more disconnected from the Core.
Planning Principles

Respect the site’s natural features, including:
- Views of natural landmarks (Pike’s Peak, Pulpit Rock, Austin Bluffs)
- Drainage corridors
- Native vegetation of the arroyos, prairie, and bluffs

Reinforce vibrant campus anchors:
- Core Campus
- Public edge along N. Nevada

Connect campus destinations:
- Spine for pedestrians, bikes, and transit
- Neighborhoods and nodes activate the spine
Center of Campus Shifts East

The East Campus offers an opportunity for the core to expand. Several housing villages would be clustered along the western portion of the spine, with a node of public university uses located along North Nevada. While this scheme creates a compact core, it distances the North Campus from the heart of the university.
A second node of academic functions located at Alpine Village shifts the center of the campus north. Residence halls are located in villages at the edge of the core, with a few located within it. While the North Campus and University Hall do not sit within a 10 minute walking radius of the campus center, both are close enough that they do not feel completely isolated from campus life.
Open house participants had the opportunity to leave comments for the master planning team. The comment cards included a section for general comments, but specifically posed the following questions:

1. In the future, what will attract and retain students at UCCS?
2. Where will the core academic campus and the main student life areas be located? Where will students, faculty and staff park?

Forty-five participants submitted comment cards, providing a wide range of insight into desired outcomes for future campus development. A strong campus community and unique physical environment were mentioned most often as the factors that will attract and retain students in the future. Students, faculty, and staff were divided as to where the future center of campus should be located, but nearly everyone recognized the importance of creating an effective transportation and parking strategy as the campus grows. General comments addressed the challenges of scheduling university facilities and reflected positively on the planning process thus far.

The comments received have been grouped into thematic categories and are reproduced verbatim on the pages that follow.
In the future, what will attract and retain students at UCCS?

Student Life

- Dorms - Residence halls are the biggest draw to a university. The current halls are outdated and not conducive to a “living” atmosphere. Updated halls and academic communities would provide better access to social and academic areas.
- Living space close to University
- Connectivity & proximity from new dorms to academic buildings. Students love the idea of leaving Summit and being in COB within 2 minutes.
- Community
  - Community- being brought together to work together, play together, etc.
  - Strong campus community with ties to larger Colorado Springs community/Pikes Peak region
  - Active student life
  - A large, fun and diverse student life presence
  - Fun stuff like recreation opportunities and ample parking
  - Community feel
  - Small community and active student body
  - Balance of personal growth and non-academic experiences with academics. Other students like themselves (hopefully good students!). Younger students like more hoopla.
  - Creating a sense of campus community and school pride. This will come from athletics and a relocated student union.
  - Areas for larger student life and activities. Our school is mostly commuter so students need interactive reasons to stay on campus.
  - More student life space. Other public spaces would allow for better relations with the University.
  - Available housing and parking will create a real campus feel and give the campus more than a “CU Branch” feel. Students want to know that there’s a space for them here….and right now it’s tight.
  - Student -centered student union with ample space consideration for programming, specific student club meeting and event space. Informal meeting space, too. Ideally, consideration should be given to student affairs services located in the student union. Staff office areas and storage are important as well.
  - Enough areas for student life opportunities (recreation, housing, unions, open unplanned space). As the campus grows it needs to focus on the development of the “whole student” and provide space and facilities to provide that enriching environment.
  - More spaces for non-traditional students and their families
  - Student focused places to gather for study, hanging out, eating, playing
  - I think students would be drawn to a campus community. For example, most schools like CSU, UCLA and the other UC campuses, as well as private schools and other public schools built their campuses so students have everything that they need on campus. For example, sports, entertainment, eateries, and movie theaters for the public. If there was a Target at the University Commons area students would barely have to go off campus for anything. That way, students really live on campus and there is something to do here at night and on the weekends. This is particularly important if we have a light rail or tram that is automated 24 hours a day (or close) to go to the University Commons for shopping, and all other areas on campus.

Athletics

- It takes years to develop athletic and social programs
- Athletic facilities
- Football!! This school needs a football team!
- A football team

Sense of Place

- Incredible physical environment both in the local area, region and on campus – maintain open space; encourage outdoor activities – biking, hiking, etc.
- Keep natural landscape undisturbed
- A nice environment might help a lot, I know that was very important to me at least
- Environment! Maintain our unique Sense of Place
- Preserve incredible physical setting – capitalize on that rather than ignore/damage it.
- Preservation of natural areas that create great spaces to both hang in and pass through. Preserve views.
- Keeping some natural features.
- The colors & landscaping of the East Campus are lovely – and I’d like to see that continue.
- Get rid of surface parking in most visible sites along Austin Bluffs!
- Our bluffs are sacred land. Something to consider when being respectful about where building.
In the future, what will attract and retain students at UCCS?

- Quality education with unique opportunities in research, instruction and service that connects to local and international community.
- Student/Teacher ratio and Class size
  - Small, intimate classes where students and faculty actually know each other
  - Provide enough space and faculty members to maintain small class sizes and foster close professor-student relationships
  - Keeping the size down – most students really appreciate the small class sizes (best of 100-level are average 40 per class!)
  - Keeping a small school feel while offering most of the programs of a big school.
  - Retain small class sizes
  - Small class sizes

Costs
- Cost/Value of degree
- Reasonable tuition
- Reasonable cost for quality product

Miscellaneous
- On campus resources are also very important
- More chain restaurants in the cafeteria
- RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH
- Large theater
- Practical application of education to employment
- Sustainability measures on the landscape
- Listening to their concerns and feedback - like today. More opportunities avenues for arts, culture and recreation.
- Retention has been a problem. Ask Barbara Gaddis.
- An intelligent, wise, welcoming and helpful University Administration trained to listen and aid students through their college transformation.

Academics

Breadth of Curriculum
- Strong academic culture with diverse majors and minors
- Offering more majors while enriching the ones we have
- Academic programs
- Upper level degree opportunities
- Programs of interest to them.

Quality of Curriculum
- Culture of academic excellence
- Quality academics and facilities
- A quality educational and student experience that includes adequate academic facilities.
- Good teaching. Consistent instruction – fewer adjuncts
- Good teaching will attract/retain students so meet full academic needs in the plan.
Where will the core academic campus and the main student life areas be located?
Where will students, faculty, and staff park?

Location of Core

- Core Area? – Very challenging. I don’t’ really know. Probably has to move north. Nothing is ideal.
- Probably North Nevada is the best site, though it would be really important to make it “blend” with North Campus.
- Dorms and Academic buildings on N Nevada

- I feel the north campus option looks the best, but we really need to watch our growth.
- Two core academic areas – 1 in center of Nevada; 1 in center of Austin Bluffs.
- Should have 2 core areas, present location and north campus

- Split the campus into two parts. Keep current buildings as engineering and business focus. Make new buildings cater to nursing and Arts/Education. Create a tight knit community down on North Campus to make students feel more connected. University Village should really feel like a student community.
- All entertainment facilities (Athletics, Visual and Performing Arts) should move towards N. Nevada to integrate with University Village and easy access to the Colorado Springs community.

- I feel like the academic buildings should first be built around the main campus area followed by branching out with additional parking near the new Health Sciences Building. We should put academic buildings and dorms in our current parking lots to have the academic spaces nearest each other. Make the area on Nevada focused on health sciences and nursing and move them from Main Hall to be near the new Health Sciences Building for Psychology. Make that area a hub for the public (a theater space), a place for Theatreworks as well as a arena, make a sports area near there for the public and our students, and have the light rail come to the main part of campus from that area.
- Pocketed academic spaces behind Community fee-based buildings.

East
- Other academic spaces can grow East on the hill.
- Core academic campus should be focused in the main campus and University Hall
- I like the East centered plan the best.
- East campus seems most ideal…
- Center of campus shifts East is preferable.
- Build to East first
- Core academic areas should be located toward the center of campus (as much as possible given the linear nature of the campus).

University Hall/Beth-El
- University Hall needs to be more connected to campus.
- Beth-El more central to include in campus life.
- Repurpose facilities in University Hall
- Move Beth-El to central… and put Beth-El nearer for Athletic trainers and strength and conditioning.
- Relocate Beth-El central to Rec Center. Athletics and Peak Vista for athletic trainers and sports medicine student

Housing
- Like the residential housing on East Campus
- I like the idea of new housing villages located between Main Hall/Cragmor and University Hall with parking. Also, another housing area near North Campus, Athletics area would be good.
- I think putting dorms down on N. Nevada is a good idea, especially if there are shuttles. Similar to what they have at CU Boulder; seems to work out well.
- Have recreational areas near dorms
- Housing areas need rec facilities nearby.
- Main student life areas should be located at North Campus originating near Rec Center
- I lived in the dorms and feel that housing should grow! Housing should be at the heart of campus with Recreation. Academics on either side.
- Student housing will be interspersed through the campus located adjacent to recreation fields.
- Move housing down the hill if necessary.
- Making dorms close enough so people don’t have to walk so far in the dark at night. Some dorms close to UVC for activities.
- Needs more dorms
- Upper classroom housing

General
- Campus needs more density
- Encourage compact, dense development (pods) with direct pedestrian/bicycle/vehicular access between pods.
- I like having the density of building going east first.
- Condensed areas of academic colleges (Engineering, VAPA, Business) would create better community within the disciplines and easier access to classes
- There should be sections. I.e. Academic Section, Rec Section
- Form academic cores with programs (education, etc.)
- KEEP ACADEMICS TOGETHER!!
- I think it’s important for academic buildings to be consolidated in one area. When people need to get from building to building between classes, they want to get there as quickly and easily as possible.
- Make sure neighborhood across the way (Cragmor) is fully considered.

Miscellaneous

Greek Row
- As part of Greek life, I would like to see a Greek Row on campus. Individual houses or resident halls centralized around a common area would be nice, within walking distance to the center of campus.

Safety
- Concern for student safety if housing is located near public interchange (performing arts center, athletic fields)

Student Life
- Student life centered at center of campus (corner of Austin Bluffs and Nevada) with other housing near the academic areas
- Create a main student life area in the central part of the university land holdings
- It will be important if we continue to expand as predicted to have an expanded multi-cultural center not just a union. This means having bigger spaces for women, LGBT, people of color, disability services (not on top of a hill please) and keeping student space with academic buildings.
- Separate, new student union located near to recreational
Where will the core academic campus and the main student life areas be located?
Where will students, faculty, and staff park?

and existing housing village. Over time, this location may be the center of campus.
- I like the idea of keeping student life central on campus.
- Student life will be more spread out to accommodate increase.
- Expand University Center!

**Energy**
- Bill Good is working on a Master degree in Engineering in space operations. He is taking Space 5595 class.
- There are 4 students in the class; project is to design a satellite system that can control 1 million mini-nuclear reactors – about 1 megawatt in size. Could locate one at the substation at the corner of Austin Bluffs and Stanton. They are proposing something like the X-prize for the first non-government space flight for someone who develops the small 1 megawatt nuclear reactor.

**Transportation**

**Spine**
- Love the spine idea, especially one that incorporates a shuttle road & a pedestrian trail (that meanders a bit)
- Spine is a good idea.
- The concept of a spine is very nice – with nice kiosks and views of the Front Range.
- Difference in scale of paths – spine=big, single sidewalks, dirt paths – all have a role.
- Spines merge and separate
- Building aspects of the pedestrian spine should be implemented soon.

**Transit**
- Good transit system within campus that can move people effectively.
- I love the fact that there are plans to get the buses onto their own area and off the main roads where traffic is sure to be a problem.
- On campus transportation – timely & reliable & frequent
- Need to look at transit hub on east side – not on Nevada Ave, but actual pull-off – bring Frex, internal shuttle, trolley
- Tie in major transit center near new union (recommended above) near the Rec Center area.
- Agree to have Eagle Rock close road and create a cul-de-sac
- In University Village parking lot, don’t make any more concrete out of earth. Make everyone buy a bus pass (like in Boulder) to improve public transportation to campus (it’s not socialism – now taxes subsidize cars).

**Alternative Transportation Methods**
- Offer free bus passes. Encourage biking: free bike if student agree to not bring a car to campus; support bikes – bike shop open daily, etc.
- Also include options for bikes, pedestrians and mass transit
- Trails for recreation
- Focus on sustainable transportation options
- Make sure we explore other non-motorized options. Need more bike trails
- A gondola would be brilliant. It would be a huge cost initially, but over time (I have not done the moth on this). I think it might actually save money. Costs of bus maintenance, gas and driver salary would be cut. It would also make transport across campus more convenient. Instead of waiting an hour for a bus, students could step onto a gondola and be able to exit at multiple stops across campus.

**Parking**

**Interoperated**
- Faculty and staff should have parking that is separate from student parking
- Parking should be available near each center (sports & recreation, each academic center, near Beth-El, and the parking on Austin Bluffs should be kept.
- Parking should be slightly scattered to allow people to park relatively close to which ever building they want to get to.

**Peripheral**
- Parking at the ends
- Limit parking on campus!
- Park and Ride, except have faculty/staff parking on the core campus.
- I would like to see that parking is eliminated from the central campus zones, so that a pedestrian-focused campus is created. Parking/public transportation should be zoned to the campus perimeters.
- I would like to see larger parking nodes that are more on the outskirts – accessed by shuttles and paths. Some smaller lots within campus, but not dominating the landscape.
- Staff and students will still park at 4 Diamonds.
- If we continue to expand parking at 4 Diamonds and make the transit options up the spine as fast and efficient as possible, the land down there will be a great parking resource.
- Park on the edges of the campus- NOT where walking and biking traffic are focused.
- Parking in focused areas end of campus (large lots) with garages and other lots interspersed.
- Parking at periphery of campus in high-density structures and underground (with green roofs on top - see UNC Chapel Hill as a model). Parking should be kept out of the core (interior) campus and pushed to the margins, with effective bus/bike/pedestrian/ transit internally.
- Parking located on North Nevada near future buildings that will also draw community. Parking area between Main Hall, Cragmor, and Beth-El.
- Could we work with University Village to allow students to park on some of their available parking?
- Could there be parking between facilities and University Hall in the open lot over there?

**Structures**
- Need 2 new garages
- Create more garage parking in available areas to save space but create more availability
- More parking needed obviously – go vertical in places
- More parking needed obviously – go vertical in places but don’t block the view
- I think parking garages are the best bet. They may cost more, but they take up less surface area while providing more parking. Plus all spaces in the garages are basically the same distance from the building.
- Parking will require structures. Plan phased construction to evaluate impact of online attendance
- Parking issue, I suggest a bigger taller parking garage, underground even.
- Parking should focus under buildings to keep the natural landscape. Parking will always be a problem but as long as there is a plan for new (underground) or more shuttles [sentence not completed]
- Underground parking (beneath buildings)

**General**
- Smart & plentiful parking/transportation
- That’s the million dollar question! Parking is a big challenge.
- Parking is a big problem.
- Need more parking
- More parking.
General comments

Communication with University
- Listen to students in terms of vision
- Please remember to include our mission to serve the local community. We need design (buildings, parking and signage) that welcomes them, not mystifies them.

Master Planning Process
- I can tell a lot of thoughts has already gone into this. Thanks for the opportunity to contribute.
- I like the concepts presented.
- Nice to have this opportunity.
- Please continue to listen / and implement non-administrative perspectives – students faculty input counts. Thank you.
- Good exercise – challenging building site!!
- Good Session – Great idea to open it up for students, faculty and staff.
- Thanks - this is great info and a great opportunity.
- Doing a great job.
- Nice drawings! Keep up the great work.
- I like the ideas that are in place! Good Luck

Facility Safety and Human Factors
- Hub 3 access to Centennial Hall is hazardous. There’s only 1 set of stairs and it’s not centrally located (at east end). One in the middle would be helpful (near bus stop) for rainy/snowy days. I’ve slipped several times and actually ended up on backend once. Not fun in the snow with a bag full of books.
- The east stairwell doors in Columbine need to be wider – Double if possible – it is a real traffic jam there with an easy solution.
- Library Ventilation Improvements - during summer, the library is unpleasant to study in for more than 90 minutes (I take full summer loads and read fall textbooks then, I’m at the library a lot). Body heat and greenhouse effect and summer heat. Last summer had numerous days in the 90s.

Growth
- Limit campus growth – students have expressed how essential the small campus population/class size is to what makes UCCS special/attractive
- Why does UCCS have a growth imperative? Is having 20,000 students good for the community/land/existing student population?
- We may want limited growth to increase overall quality of the student body, while reducing pressure due to growth. The campus could lose its friendly atmosphere if it grows too much. Buy some of the properties in Eagle Rock area that we do not own.

Scheduling/Programming Space
- There are two critical issues that should be considered. Space for classrooms should reflect an analysis at the classroom, seat and college level. Thinking about needs in the aggregate are likely to underestimate the true capacity requirements. There are also too few offices so office space needs should be considered carefully.
- UCCS Master of Engineering in space ops
- Also as you add housing please don’t require students to live on campus. UCCS is the only school that allows freshmen to commute out of the big state schools: CSU, CSU Pueblo, CU Boulder.
- High-tech Energy Research Center
- Recognize separate academic spaces decreases interaction.
- Engineering and Applied Science needs new infrastructure. A new complex will allow the modernization of facilities to meet the goals of international level research. Suggest this complex be in the North Campus with LAS taking over the current Engineering Building.
- More functional classrooms like the Engineering (math) building versus overcrowded cubes like Columbine.
- The campus has a strong initiative to offer (and increase) conferencing services. Is this being factored into planning? Also, we want to bring alumni here but often meet elsewhere because of the challenges. We need to work on the perceptions of those challenges as well (i.e. how the perception that it’s difficult to come to and park on campus and find your building can deter potential students, visitors, alumni and parents). How much is it a deterrent? How can we improve the perception?
- Also with the growth of this campus it is important not to forget to focus on our Media Services & Film & Video programs on campus. Film & Video can be a very important component to communicating what we do on campus to the surrounding Community. Colorado also has a rich history in filmmaking & is making a comeback.
- The University of Alaska, Fairbanks has a building open for students for student study only. It is open 24hours (perhaps use a student ID card swiping machine. Would it be possible to have such an indoor facility here?
- With the ongoing economic stagnation, more students are enrolling. Many of us find library computers are, at times, hard to find. Instead of expanding facilities, can we recommend improvements to I.T. and increasing the number of computers in the library?
- This first might start with making sure we have classes from 8 am - 10 pm Monday through Friday to utilize parking on campus. Then build the Health Sciences Building followed by the new corridor for the light rail. This would be followed by the new nursing Health Sciences Building etc. Then we could build a new academic building (in a current parking lot)and dorms (between the main campus and UHall).
- Consider sending campus buses to the TJ’s area.
The planning activity offered participants a chance to give input on how the campus should be organized for a hypothetical student body of 20,000. New academic districts, housing villages, recreation fields, parking areas, and other amenities would be needed to accommodate more than double the 9,300 students enrolled today. Students, faculty, staff, and neighbors arranged pieces representing each use needed on a base map depicting today’s campus organization and future buildable areas. Pieces of purple and red yarn represented the pedestrian and transit spine routes, respectively.

Seven groups completed plans during the open house. Some focused on reinforcing the existing academic core with more academic uses, while others used academic buildings to activate the North Campus. Nearly every group located a housing village on the East Campus and one on the North Campus. If the university never reaches 20,000 students or even if it far exceeds it, many of the organizing principles suggested by the groups of students, faculty, and staff who proposed them will still be valid strategies for growth.
The base map depicts the campus organization today and highlights the buildable areas for future expansion.

These pieces represent how much land the university would need to dedicate to various uses such as housing, academic, and parking, if it were to accommodate 20,000 students. Each use is described in detail on the following page. Participants used red string to show transit connections and purple string to show pedestrian connections.
Two handouts explain what each piece represents and the considerations for siting that use.
Group 1

The group that created this plan focused on promoting healthy lifestyles. They chose to locate parking at the eastern and western end of campus and establish well-connected trail systems to get to the core. They suggested that Beth-El College should be located closer to Rec Center and the Academic Health Services Center and that dorms should have recreation fields close to them.

Group 2

This plan located academic facilities as close to the core as possible, but chose to have housing and recreational facilities interspersed throughout the campus. Students, faculty, staff and visitors can park in larger surface lots at the edge of campus or in garages closer to the core.

Two groups chose to expand the academic core to the north by creating a new node of academic development west of Alpine Village.
Three groups created a second academic core along North Nevada Avenue.

**Group 3**
This plan creates a concentrated housing district with recreational facilities that connects the two cores together. Athletics facilities are located to the north and parking is located at the edges of campus.

**Group 4**
The student union/university center is proposed in the center of the two core areas with housing and recreation adjacent. Parking is located near each main area and athletics is concentrated to the north.
The group that created this plan focused on creating a new community center for students on the North Campus. To support this center, academics, housing, and parking are located nearby.
Two groups took other approaches to organizing the academic core.

**Group 6**
In this scenario, all academic uses are centralized in the Core and East Campuses. Housing, recreation, and athletics are located on the North Campus, which students can access by riding a gondola.

**Group 7**
This plan proposes two new academic nodes: one at the East campus and one near Alpine Village. Housing is interspersed throughout, creating a mixed living-learning community along the spine. Athletics and recreation are located on the North Campus.
The open house sessions allowed students, faculty, staff, neighbors, and city officials a chance to reflect on the challenges of planning for the future of the university and the work of the Master Planning Committee to date. The comments received from open house participants underscored the importance of creating an efficient transportation system in support of a pedestrian-friendly campus, a viable parking strategy, social and recreational spaces to support student life, and the academic facilities to attract the best and brightest to UCCS --- all while respecting and enhancing the environmental factors that make the campus unique.

As the process moves forward, the Master Planning Committee will incorporate this feedback as the Sketch Plans presented at the open house sessions are refined into a Draft Plan. Additionally, the master planning process is one of thirteen groups providing recommendations to the Strategic Plan in January 2012 for goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for the university. The Strategic Plan and Master Plan will be finalized together and presented to the Board of Regents in April 2012.