Master Plan Update

Since the draft plan was presented in April, UK has been spreading the word and receiving continued feedback through meetings and the website. Sasaki and the UK team have been refining the plan based on this feedback as well as information related to the projects that are moving forward; such as the Gatton School of Business and Commonwealth Stadium.

The plan has been presented to the following organizations this summer:

- UK Board of Trustees
- UK Libraries Staff and Faculty
- Information Technology
- UK Alumni Association
- Human Resources

Facilities staff have also given tours of campus to look at old and new buildings with several groups, including the Herald Leader Editorial Board, LFUCG Planning, local preservation groups and the Legislative Research Commission staff.

These tours gave us an opportunity to show local leaders the challenges associated with our aging building stock. We also had the opportunity to show off our recently opened Central Halls and let our tour members see how we are rising up to meet the housing standards of modern living-learning communities. For a full schedule of meetings see our website at www.uky.edu/masterplan.

Adirondack Chairs Are a Hit!

After seeing examples from other campuses that Sasaki brought to us for simple ways to enhance our open areas, we decided to place Adirondack chairs in several locations and see how they would be received. They were popular since day one, so expect to see a few more popping up around campus. These two staff members have the right idea for their lunch break!
A concerted effort by UK Students resulted in the newly trimmed entrances along Euclid. In Pralltown, flowers were being planted and gardens were being tidied. Neighbors came out to offer tools and assistance to the students and were genuinely grateful for the help.

This program is a great way to foster neighborhood relations as well as student volunteerism. It gives the UK Police a chance to interact with the students in a fun and productive setting. The teamwork involved in carrying out this event is second to none.
Seminary Acquisition provides Swing Space

The newly acquired Lexington Theological Seminary has come at an ideal time for UK. Much needed swing space will be available for programs like the Gatton School of Business as they renovate their current building. Construction will begin on the Gatton expansion shortly and is expected to be completed by Fall of 2015. Faculty and staff from the Gatton School will move into the Seminary facilities next summer.

The Seminary has 60 residential units on its campus that have been turned over to UK Housing and are currently occupied by our graduate students. Another building on campus is currently shelled space and will be designed for the Early Childhood laboratory (ECL) that is part of the College of Education. The ECL is currently located in the basement of the Erikson Building and has been looking for a new home for several years. They hope to move into Building 400 at the Seminary sometime next fall and are looking forward to expanding their program at that location.

Landscape Plan

Sasaki Associates has begun work on a Landscape Plan that will supplement the Master Plan by concentrating a more detailed effort into 15 specified areas of campus that contain notable open spaces and critical connections through campus. One of the areas is being studied in conjunction with the Gatton Building expansion. This area, which we are calling Gillis Green, extends from the front of Memorial Hall to the Patterson Office Tower and is being studied in terms of pedestrian movement; placement of landscape, hardscape and furniture; as well as bicycle parking needs. Another notable area will connect Huegule Drive with Library Drive through a green space that is being developed as we remove several greenhouses near the Hunt Morgan Building. This will provide an important connection that will extend to the Classroom Building once the Library Drive section is implemented.

The purpose of the plan is to provide direction for the improvement of the focus areas over time. In addition to design guidance, the focus plans will incorporate sustainable practices, recommendations for native plant materials, and guidelines for landscape and pavement materials.

Housing Update

Central Halls I and II opened to 601 students and the Honors Living-Learning Community this past month. Move-in day went smoothly and saw many new students excited over their dorm rooms as well as the amphitheater and courtyard area.

Construction continues on New Haggin, Woodland Glen I and II, and Champions Court I and II. These residence halls will open next Fall to about 2,300 students.

Demolition on the remainder of Cooperstown should be complete by late October with construction of the final three dorms at Woodland Glen to follow. These should open in Fall of 2015 and hold approximately 1,600 beds.

FEMA Project Update

Utility work at Nicholasville and Alumni Drive should begin this winter. In the meantime, the Landscape Architects and Engineers at Bell Engineering are doing their best to design stormwater solutions that will feel like a park to pedestrians moving through the area. The concept is to provide a multipurpose trail that winds along Alumni Drive yet provides the exceptional stormwater control that is necessary to mitigate flooding in that area.

Coordination is underway to design and implement this project in conjunction with other current projects along Alumni Drive such as the Commonwealth Stadium expansion and future baseball stadium to make the area cohesive and keep improvements sized for future use. The end result should prove to be innovative and attractive.