

USM Cross Creek Master Planning Committee
Summary Notes – Recent Activities and Work Session II – October 8-9, 2008

September 25, 30 and October 1, 2008 – Faculty, staff, and student open forums held to offer the university community an update on the progress of the planning process. Several questions asked and answered regarding libraries, food service, shade and landscaping, faculty center and social networking spaces.

October 3, 2008 – Web-Ex conference call between Leadership Team, Collaborative, and Development Partners to review preliminary site plans, prior to Committee Meeting on October 8th. Developers suggested creating a work team representative of all parties to develop building standards and covenants for the development.

October 8-9, 2008 – Planning Session 2. Second meeting of the entire Planning Committee and the Collaborative. Focus group meetings with Gulf Coast Business Council Executive Committee, regional elected officials, and school superintendents.

- The Planning Team is working closely with the Cross Creek Developers to create a design acceptable to all parties. With every session, details are becoming more fine-tuned.
- Sasaki has been trying to map out key issues with the campus site:
 - 50 foot buffer for the wetlands and the restraints of the natural habitat
 - permitting issues with Army Corp of Engineers
 - Turkey Creek and Flat Branch Creek and the flood plans
- Roadways and interchanges through Cross Creek are still in the planning phase.
- Sasaki has used some example case studies of town centers mixed with University life to give USM examples of what the Cross Creek Campus could become.
- Sasaki is planning the campus closer to the town center than what was originally suggested. Sasaki felt, given all the issues discussed, this would offer the best campus layout and collaborative town center.
 - Alternative 1 - will only give one town center and campus interaction site.
 - Alternative 2 - giving the town center more land, but having two town centers and campus interaction sites that are within walking distance of each other.
- Everything discussed in this session describes a completed campus based on the projected future enrollment of 12,000 students.
- Sasaki is looking at different climate strategies in order to take into consideration other sources of energy.
- How the buildings are aligned and the height of those buildings will help facilitate natural ventilation.
- Suggested the parking lot will be under the power lines, located within a 5 minute radius of the academic buildings.
- Streets vs. roadways will be made throughout the campus for vehicular and pedestrian movement.
- The design of the streets within the campus it will be setup with wide sidewalks and greenery, comparable to small city sidewalks.

Suggestions and Concerns

- Concerns about the parking lot being 5 minute walk, could there be a shuttle of some sort, being LEED Silver, maybe an electric trolley.
- Discussion of some residential type apartments near the campus.
- Some committee members worried that the high school and University traffic may be congested at times.
- Campus security was a concern mentioned by some committee members.