

MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

Gulf Coast Operations
c/o USM Gulf Coast
730 East Beach Boulevard
Long Beach, MS 39560

UPDATE MEMORANDUM USM Cross Creek Master Planning Committee

Planning work continues along the schedule presented at last month's Board of Trustees meeting. A chronology of all activities conducted to date is attached to this statement along with a summary of notes compiled from discussion at the latest Committee meeting.

The full Committee met on October 8 and 9 on the Gulf Park campus, with presentations and discussion led by the Sasaki & Co. members of the consulting collaborative. Building on the Collaborative's prior property analysis work, Sasaki representatives presented various case example studies of university campuses integrating with surrounding communities to give the Committee an idea of what Cross Creek could become. As part of this discussion, Sasaki presented several potential options for placement and design of the new campus, ultimately serving 12,000 students, within the Cross Creek development. Current renderings recommend a placement further north, into a closer, collaborative relationship with the development partner's planned town center. Topics covered included current thinking in campus buildings better serving student life, consideration of how building design can be "green" and sustainable, the potential use of alternative energy applications appropriate for the area's climate, and adaptation of space under power lines, etc. as landscaped parking. Our development partners were fully informed on the bulk of the presentations through a separate WebEx conference in the week prior to this meeting. They remain open and flexible to all options.

The Committee finalized the Planning Principles with consideration of inputs given during the numerous forums held with university constituencies.

The website detailing our campus planning efforts is now running at the Southern Miss webpage at www.usm.edu. Links to the IHL website will be established at a later date. Following a model established when the master plan for the

MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

Gulf Coast Operations
c/o USM Gulf Coast
730 East Beach Boulevard
Long Beach, MS 39560

Hattiesburg campus was compiled, this website will be continually updated to keep all interested parties currently informed.

Separate sessions were held on October 8 and 9 with the Executive Committee of the Gulf Coast Business Council, regional elected officials, and local school superintendents. All groups received our information very enthusiastically and understand ultimate success of our efforts require their advocacy.

Due to conflicting schedules and the need for additional revisions to incorporate latest inputs, the Collaborative was unable to attend today's meeting. A full presentation by the Collaborative will be scheduled for the Board's activities at your November meeting.

Remaining formal planning sessions are scheduled as follows:

November 12 – 13, 2008 **(This may be reduced to a one-day session.)**

January 21 - 22, 2009

April 15 - 16, 2009

We encourage all Trustees available to attend as their schedules permit.