

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

October 13, 2021

The Administrative Council met on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Athens State Ballroom. Present were Dr. Rick Barth; Ms. Toni Carter; Ms. Pam Clark, Recorder; Ms. Jackie Gooch; Mr. Jeffrey Guenther; Ms. Beth Jenkins; Ms. Belinda Krigel; Dr. Kim LaFevor; Mr. Chris Latham; Ms. Sarah McAbee; Mr. Mike McCoy; Dr. Michael Radden (Delap proxy); Dr. Jackie Smith; Dr. Stephen Spencer; Dr. Lee Vartanian; Dr. Philip Way; Dr. Catherine Wehlburg; and Dr. Lionel Wright. Mr. Richard Collie; Mr. Jonathan Craft; Mr. Andrew Dollar; Dr. Keith Ferguson; Mr. Benjamin Shepard, Mr. Derrek Smith; and Mr. Gary Valcana were absent.

Dr. Way convened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone. There were no corrections to the September minutes. Dr. LaFevor made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Vartanian seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

Dr. Way stated the focus of the meeting is to discuss the space resources needed for the five goals of the strategic plan (Attachment - Master Plan for Campus Space). Committee members were divided into five groups for discussions.

A. Academic and Non-credit Programs (Goals 1, 2 & 3) – Carter, Guenther, Spencer and Wehlburg

Specific needs of existing and new programs.

- Growth in health care programs - need space and labs
- Academic centers for students and faculty – a space for labs, study rooms, meeting areas, places for collaboration. Exclusive space – e.g., a math major can go to a certain space to study with peers who are math or STEM majors
- Need more general learning commons areas – update the library common areas to bring more people into the space.
- Need to find a way to make students want to come to campus.
- Need for living/learning spaces – residence halls.
- Need to consider virtual space.
- Need learning center to include club collaboration.
- Need a space where people feel like they belong.
- Need to discuss what percentage of classes are online, hybrid or face-to-face. This will determine how much space is needed.
- Need to discuss how to build our cohorts among our students by having classes that are on Saturdays or evenings or meet once a month where students come to campus.
- Need to have a retreat space – CLL and non-credit opportunities

B. Teaching and Learning (Goals 1 & 3) – Krigel, Vartanian and Wright

Relevant, innovative programs: Credentials, badges, etc.

- Labs; not classrooms (participatory, hands-on learning)

- Flexible space
 - Modular furniture
 - Connectivity for multiple electronic devices

Quality, engaged learning - modalities that students prefer (schedule, on campus. OL/BL/F2F)

- Collaborative space outside normal classrooms (learning commons in Library, Bear Cage, Learning Commons, student lounge
 - Inviting and warm environment
 - “Wow” rooms that showcase our collaborative, tech-rich learning spaces
- Seamless integration of technology (welcoming and easy to log on and connect to campus internet)
- Multiple attractive collaborative, study spaces (indoors and outdoors)

Recruitment and retention of diverse student body

- Multiple attractive collaborative, study spaces (indoors/outdoors)
- Does this space reflect needs and future interests of incoming students?
 - Bring students into classroom space/campus environment discussions.
- Campus space: exciting > utilitarian.
- What about international students?
- Maximizing student-friendly outdoor space.
- E-sports (disc golf).
- Bring activities to campus – speakers, clubs, etc. to develop student affinity groups.
- Keep the campus open after hours and on weekends.

ROI for resources

- Space is a resource.
- Non-classroom space is underutilized.

Anchor institution

- More students on campus = more local presence.

C. Students (Goal 3) – Barth, Jenkins, McAbee and Way

Space needs

- Housing
 - With the Karnataka, India students coming to Athens State, housing is needed.
 - There is also a demand from domestic students as evidenced by the inquiries the advisors get from students.
 - As Admissions expands the recruiting of Community Colleges further south into Birmingham, there will be a greater demand for campus housing.

Is space currently available somewhere we can use?

- Apartments are one option. Included in this is an offer from Cathy Woodruff, who owns some complexes, to learn more about what we are looking for.
- Host Families – we may want to solicit interest from local families on hosting students
- One option, when completed, is the Decatur residence Hall
- While not currently in the plans, we could look at building at main campus, we would need a minimum of 200 beds in order for contractors to consider working with us.
- “Quick build” options would be tiny houses or container housing.

- **Student Clubs and Organization Space**

- Groups need a “work room” space large enough to have a work table, lockers, and store supplies like paints, markers, poster paper etc.
- As E-sports develop, we will need more practice and competition space
- As more clubs develop, such as intramural teams and fishing club, we will need space to store one or more boats and recreation field space for sports.

Is Space currently available somewhere we can use?

- There is the lounge/Bear Cave area in Sandridge Student Center that groups occasionally use for meetings and events.
- Back wall of Bear Cave set up with gaming equipment
- Student lounge in ATLAS
- Space in basement of gym could be looked at for possible student use
- Baseball field turned into multi-purpose field

- **Graduate Space**

- With growth in graduate enrollment and admission, space is needed for dedicated personnel--including a director of graduate admissions and an advisor or success coach.

Is space currently available somewhere we can use?

- If the Career Development Center can be relocated, such as closer to CLL, then that space could be used as graduate admissions space.
- Review of University-owned houses that may be able to accommodate graduate admissions
- Former dress shop space by the CLL is open.

What should the priorities be?

- Housing due to the incoming Indian students and increased domestic demand
- Graduate space
- Student Activities

Multiple Uses for Space

- Residence Halls = multiple uses beyond Athens State students. For example, they could be used by Calhoun Students and as transitional housing for new faculty and staff when hired at Athens State
- Student Activities space:
 - Work room and other space can serve multiple student needs for meetings and programs
 - Recreation fields can also be used for community groups and clubs

D. Efficient Use of Financial, Human, Technology & Space Resources (Goal 4) – Gooch, McCoy and Smith

Classroom training and workforce development space needs

- Currently an assessment is being done to determine the space needed for classrooms and workforce development.
- We need dedicated space for our new programs, especially the graduate programs.
- Brown Hall would be a place for potential space, but it is limited to office space.
- Limited office space for new faculty and staff.
- Pryor Street house could be used for office space or an outreach center.
- The boutique and coffee shop have vacated the CLL. We need to discuss how to utilize this space. One option has been a small business development center.
- Carter Hall – a space for the community or multi-use facility.
- Need for technology that is mobile.
- Plans for a welcome center in the “Nazaretian” house.
- A new maintenance building is needed.
- The Human Resources department needs a suite and conference space.
- Need to look at our ROI to buy, build or repurpose space.

E. External Relations (Goal 5) – LaFevor, Latham and Radden

Economic Development

- Incubator/maker space
- Workforce training and lab space (program-specific)
 - Nursing
 - Logistics
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Cyber Range
 - Career fairs and tradeshow
 - North Alabama Works!
 - Space may potentially be available through partnerships with AIDT or Calhoun.

Quality of life, including arts and culture, health, and the environment/enhancing communities

- Large venues for various community activities
 - Galas
 - Concerts
 - Membership meetings
 - Chamber events
 - Expos
 - General community events
 - Athens-Limestone Hospital Gala and Pink Elephant Luncheon
 - Limestone County Economic Development Association
 - Rotary
 - Keep Athens Limestone Beautiful (Earth Day Expo)
 - Martin Luther King Day Celebration
 - Hospice Chili Challenge
 - Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame events
 - Limestone Sheriff's Queen Pageant
 - Limestone County Volunteer Fire Department Annual Banquet
 - Athens-Limestone County Soul Festival
 - Limestone County 4-H County Round-up
- Focus on increasing quality of life; providing resources for citizens
- Wellness/recreation center
- Parking availability for both campus and downtown events

Enhancing P-12 education & partnering with community colleges

- Partnerships with local schools to provide staffing expos (to combat teacher shortage)
- Graduation ceremonies
- 2+2 programs; shared lab space (many programs have lab-based requirements that require space)
- Braided program offerings
- Housing (meet existing and future need)

Dr. Way thanked everyone for their participation. The next meeting will be in Kares Library. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Clark

Attachment: "Master Plan for Campus Space" PowerPoint Presentation

Master Plan for Campus Space

Administrative Council

October 13, 2021

Strategic Plan Informs Master Plan

- Inextricably linked
 - Goals may be attained through various strategies.
 - Many strategies require space.
 - Need to plan what space is needed when and allocate resources.
- Example of Goal 1
 - Innovative programs may require facilities we don't have.
 - Existing programs – to be of high quality – may need better facilities.
 - Non-credit courses and professional development may need training rooms more than classrooms.

The Task

- Consider each strategic goal and discuss:
 - What are possible space needs and when is space needed?
 - Is space is currently available somewhere that we can use?
 - What should the priorities be?
 - Could the space be designed for multiple uses?

Breakout Groups

- Goal groups:
 - Academic and non-credit programs (Catherine)
 - Teaching and learning (Belinda)
 - Students (Sarah)
 - Efficient use of financial, human, technology, and space resources (Mike)
 - External relations (Joe)