

# **Cal Poly Master Plan Update: Guidelines and Assumptions**

## **Introduction**

The campus master plan guides the general location, size and type of land uses and facilities needed to support the University's mission now and into the future.

The purpose of this paper is to present certain major guidelines for the master plan update and some of the key starting assumptions that will guide the planning effort.

Two additional points should be recognized. First, not every guideline and assumption is catalogued in this paper. The focus has been on those that require some affirmation from the administration prior to our starting. There are, of course, other assumptions that are already clear and will be treated as "givens." For example, we know that creeks and sensitive habitats must be protected; CSU formulas will at least initially drive various space calculations; adequate water, sewer and drainage capacity must be provided; and so on. The emphasis of this paper, therefore, is on 1) issues that are unique to this update, and 2) certain past policies that we feel need confirmation as to their continued relevance and desirability.

Secondly, we recognize that any major planning program is an iterative process: as certain issues are explored more deeply, the information assembled may, in turn, require certain assumptions or principles to be re-visited. An on-going dialogue with the campus community and our neighbors will be required to achieve the successful development of the Campus Master Plan Update.

The Campus Master Plan Update will define the physical transformation of the Cal Poly campus. It will enhance student success through the ethos of our Learn By Doing and polytechnic culture by means that are environmentally and economically sustainable.

## **Key Guidelines and Assumptions for Initiating the Master Planning Process**

### **Enrollment**

*Note: A range of enrollment growth scenarios will be evaluated considering such factors as CSU growth projections and system-wide policies; student demand, especially in Cal Poly's polytechnic fields; the University's own vision of Cal Poly's future; resource capacities; changes in pedagogy and technology; and potential effects on the community and environment.*

#### **Related Assumptions:**

- The distribution among disciplines (at the college level) will be based on guidance from Academic Affairs.
- The expected future ratio of graduate to undergraduate students will be provided by Academic Affairs.

*Note:-Planning for the distribution of future enrollment among the colleges and the ratio of graduate vs. undergraduate students is underway with draft expected by April or May. Following that draft, meetings will be scheduled with the Deans to discuss more specific space and facility requirements.*

### **Pedagogy and Research**

#### **Key Guidelines:**

- Cal Poly's tradition of "Learn by Doing" will be maintained and enhanced.
- New developments and renovations will consider the use of the built environment as a polytechnic teaching tool both in design and operation.
- The plan will consider and accommodate new, changing or trending approaches to teaching and learning that will affect space needs or infrastructure in a significant way. Guidance on these topics will be provided by Academic Affairs.
- In addition to the formula driven lab and lecture spaces, the plan will also consider and accommodate facility/space needs resulting from pedagogy changes as identified by the college deans and Academic Affairs. State space allocation formulas as well as non-State funded options will be considered and flexibility will be an important consideration.
- The plan will consider and accommodate the space needs and infrastructure needed to support faculty research and the various campus institutes based on guidance by the college deans and Academic Affairs.
- Expand space on campus to enhance student success and to improve economic development. Additional private/public venture opportunities will be encouraged and accommodated in the plan.

### **Residential Communities**

#### **Key Guidelines:**

- Provide on-campus student housing at least equal to all enrollment above the current (2001) master plan.
- More than 55% of student enrollment will be housed in university managed housing.

- Provide maximum flexibility in providing housing through varying approaches, including public/private/partnerships, traditional development and other means.

**Related Assumptions:**

- Housing will be primarily for first and second year students, with first year housing in dormitory style units and second year and beyond in apartment style units.
- Additional on-campus retail, grocery, food service, and other services/facilities (along the lines of those at Poly Canyon Village and the campus market) should be planned with new residential development.
- A housing facility specifically designated for graduate students may not be necessary; however, graduate students wishing to be on campus may be accommodated.
- The University may also pursue additional faculty/staff and specialty housing on campus.

*Note: Additional faculty/staff housing strategies may include options off-campus, including for example, through Corporation real estate acquisitions near the University.*

**Campus Instructional Core**

*Note: the “campus instructional core” is defined by the Master Plan as the area east of the railroad tracks, west of Perimeter Road/Grand Avenue and south of Brizzolara Creek.*

**Key Guidelines:**

- The campus instructional core will evolve toward a more diverse, 24-hour community, that may include additional housing (mixed use buildings), spaces for social gatherings and intellectual exchange, as well as compatible entertainment, recreational and other support facilities.
- Most academic buildings should be located within a 10-minute walk of each other (that is, within a radius of approximately 5 minute walk or a quarter mile from the center of the campus instructional core), while administration and support facilities may be located at a further distance.
- Preserving and expanding open space in all areas of Cal Poly, including the campus instructional core, should be balanced with any site infill development plans.

**Related Assumptions:**

- As a general principle, a more intensively developed campus core is more desirable than a lower intensity, more sprawling campus.
- Most new instructional facilities should be sited in the campus instructional core.
- To the extent possible, academic offices should be located within the core area, too.
- The library will be expanded/modified as envisioned in the current Capital Improvement Program.

**Circulation and Parking**

**Key Guidelines:**

- The conversion of the campus instructional core to a primarily pedestrian character will continue.

## Master Plan Update: Guidelines & Assumptions

- As anticipated in the current Master Plan, North Perimeter between the Village Drive intersection and University Avenue will be relocated farther north (toward Brizzolara Creek) to improve vehicle circulation and to further the pedestrian character of the campus instructional core.
- Automobile and truck through-traffic in the campus instructional core will be reduced; however, convenient access will be maintained for deliveries, maintenance, public safety, disabled accessibility and public transit/internal shuttles.
- Where feasible, existing roads in the campus instructional core will be reduced in width and/or converted to pedestrian and bike paths, or, possibly, the land used for right-of-way may be utilized for other purposes.
- Improve the main access points to the campus (Highland, California and Grand) and work with the City and Cal Trans to improve the appearance and function of key intersections.

### **Related Assumptions:**

- Alternative modes of transportation will continue to be expanded and emphasized for students/faculty/staff commuting to campus.
- In order to provide convenient, safe and efficient circulation on campus, a wide range of modes (including the possibility of a shuttle for certain purposes) will be evaluated.
- The campus bicycle plan should be incorporated into the campus master plan.
- On campus resident parking strategies will be developed that minimize impacts on off-campus neighborhoods.
- Adequate parking will continue to be provided by emphasizing locations on the periphery of the campus instructional core, near major athletic and performing arts venues, and in conjunction with housing. In the campus instructional core parking necessary to provide access for disabled persons will continue to be provided.
- Generally, strategically located parking structures will continue to be preferred over surface lots.
- Future parking demand for faculty/staff and commuter students (primarily 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> year and graduate) will be based on existing ratios and recent trends.
- Planning for parking for residents will be based on a combination of a continued policy to encourage first year students to use alternative transportation modes, recent auto use trends among residents, and housing project marketability analyses.

### **Events and Conference Facilities**

#### **Key Guidelines:**

- The plan will include a new multi-purpose events and athletics center and agricultural/rodeo pavilion.
- Conference facilities, on-campus visitor-serving accommodations, alumni center and appropriate cultural and historical museums will be accommodated in the plan.
- The venues for major inter-collegiate sports (football, basketball, softball, baseball, swimming, track, tennis, etc.) will be studied and needs will be developed with the campus community.

**Related Assumptions:**

- The football stadium will remain in its current location but the plan will provide for the expansion/upgrade of the stadium seating and support facilities.
- Identify if there is need for a new football practice field.

**Recreation/ASI Facilities**

**Key Guideline:**

- The plan will accommodate student support facilities for current and increased enrollment.

**Related Assumption:**

- The update to the ASI Master Plan will be incorporated into the campus master plan.

**Other Support Facilities**

**Key Guideline:**

- To free up land in the campus instructional core, the existing Facilities and College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Operations yards, and related staff functions will be relocated to appropriate sites with satellite support locations within the core, while retaining/improving their efficiency and effectiveness.

**Related Assumptions:**

- Provide faculty offices and administrative space adequate to support the academic mission, including university administration.
- Any increase in administrative offices should be concentrated proximate to the existing main admin building.
- The current health center, disability resource center, counseling facilities, and similar support facilities do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate enrollment growth; thus, the plan should anticipate new or expanded facilities.
- The existing “backbone” infrastructure, including the substation and central plant, do not have sufficient capacity to service the anticipated enrollment and residential growth; thus, the plan must sustainably accommodate new or expanded facilities. The Utilities Master Plan currently underway will be incorporated in the campus master plan.

**Open Space/Natural Resources/Outdoor Instruction**

**Key Guideline:**

- Encroachment onto prime soils and the conversion of cultivated fields and orchards will be considered only when other important University goals override.
- Recognizing Cal Poly’s temperate climate and the importance of outdoor learning spaces and sustainability, exterior instructional, recreation, dining and study opportunities should be incorporated.
- Cal Poly will continue to be an example of state of the art sustainability practices in campus design and operations.

**Related Assumptions:**

- The University will work with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments to explore the feasibility of a separated bike path connecting San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay (part of which may pass through Cal Poly land).

**Timeframe**

*Note: The timeframe for the plan will be approximately 20 years (2035) as recommended by CSU guidelines. However, the plan may be substantially implemented sooner. The plan will be regularly reviewed for currency and will likely be updated by about 2025.*