Introduction to the Principles, Implementation Programs and Policies

While the expression of a physical master plan is most easily seen in maps and accompanying diagrams, those visual elements are based on numerous ideas about what a campus should look like and how it should function.   Those ideas have been largely articulated in Cal Poly's master plan as "principles."

Certain "Guiding Principles" were developed early on in the process by the master plan professional team with input from administration, including the college deans, and based largely on the current (2001) campus plan. Guiding Principles can be thought of both as starting points for the plan process as well as overarching directives relevant to all or most master plan topics.

A larger number of "Master Plan Principles" generally address more specific issues in the physical plan, although many are relevant to several topical areas. A matrix table highlights how various principles relate across different master plan topics.

The master plan process surfaced the desire for several studies that require a more refined or focused level of analysis, as well as for various follow-up measures needed to fully effect specific aspects of the plan. These are differentiated from principles in the plan and are listed as "Implementation Programs."

In addition to principles and follow-up implementation measures, the planning process suggested a number of administrative policies that should be adopted by the University to guide future decisions relevant to the physical development of the campus to better ensure consistency with the new master plan. These are listed as "Ongoing Administrative Policies."

The derivation of the principles, implementation programs and ongoing administrative policies largely came from the work of six advisory committees appointed by the President and assigned to focus on different topics. The committees included representatives of administration, staff, faculty, students and community interests as well as outside experts. The master plan professional team considered these recommendations throughout the plan development.

The master plan professional team edited the numerous committee recommendations to reduce redundancy across committees, to combine related concepts where appropriate, and for clarity and consistency of language. However, the recommendations from the committees are also listed in Appendix A largely verbatim (or with minor editing where an expression was incomplete or language unclear). Following each committee recommendation there is a reference to where it was considered and incorporated into a principle, implementation program or administrative policy in the plan itself.