Campus Master Plan
Visit 2  November 13- 14, 2007

Consultant Team
The Campus Studio
Comprehensive Facilities Planning
Vivian Llambi and Associates
KLH Engineers
Consultant Team

- The Campus Studio
  Team Leader/ Master Planners

- Comprehensive Facilities Planning
  Space Planners

- Vivian Llambi Associates
  Landscape Architects

- KLH Engineers
  Engineers
Realizing the Opportunity

A Critical Time at NKU

Bold new ideas and directions are needed to insure that future growth opportunities can be utilized to achieve critical objectives.
Visit 2 Purpose

1. Discuss and confirm key issues
   - Play back your comments
   - Incorporate consultant observations

2. Review Preliminary Master Plan Goals
Build Ideas with Others

Visit 2 Sessions

1. Leadership Team
2. Advisory Committee
3. Executive Committee
4. Board of Regents

* One on One Interviews
* Open Campus Sessions
* Open Community Sessions
Visit 1 Listening

Seven Major Visit 1 Meetings

1. Advisory Committee
2. Executive Committee
3. Open Campus Sessions (2)
4. Student Sessions (2)
5. Town Hall Session
Sharing Concerns and Priorities

1. Responded to Questions
   - What do you like best about campus
   - Favorite place, facility or thing?
   - Ugliest place or thing on campus?
   - What would you change?

2. Four pages of comments
   (meeting notes)
Most Frequently Heard Comments

Small and personal scale of the campus is appealing
Library Coffee Shop and University Center are favorite buildings
Loch Norse and south end of Central Plaza are favorite places
More big trees, grass and student sitting/interaction areas
Need for a major image symbol
Need to get students out of their cars
Too much concrete and too little open space
Not a pedestrian friendly campus and need to improve ADA
Safety concerns – pedestrian / vehicular conflicts
Vehicular congestion is a problem
Increase bicycle usage
Needed - residence halls and a single student services building
More outdoor recreation facilities
Consultant Reactions - lots of good information

1. High level of participation (attendance)
2. Wide range of responses - little consistency
3. On target with most of your comments
4. Most favorable comments: views of campus from a distance, lake or inside buildings
5. Unusual support for making campus people friendly/green
6. Limited number of desirable outdoor areas identified
7. Favorite personal quiet places are off campus
8. Students study and eat in their cars - rarely heard
9. Less made about parking – important but not out of sight
10. Improve campus entry gateways rated unusually high
11. Important places have names
Campus Attributes

- Loch Norse
- South end Central Plaza
- Welcome Ctr Plaza
- Science Building and Plaza
- Library and Library Café
- Fine Arts Gallery
- Distant views of campus
- Amphitheater
- Walk of Fame
- Natural areas
- Honors House
- University Center
- BEP Building
- Residence Halls
- New Arena and Univ. Ctr
- Nunn Dr. roundabout
- Sand lot volleyball
- Health Center
- Baptist Student Union
Campus Concerns

- North end of Central Plaza
- Concrete paving
- Sculpture Box
- Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflicts
- Baseball field
- North amphitheater
- Kenton Drive
- Carroll Drive
- Founders Hall
- Health Center
- Law School
- Intramural field
- Large parking lots
- Gravel surface lot
- Major campus entries
- Welcome Center loading dock
- Emergency and bus access
Student Life
Student Life Issues

1. Make campus more user friendly
2. Initial impression of campus is concrete
3. Need student gathering places
4. Windy and uninviting in the winter
5. Lacks image object or place
6. Needs more mature trees
7. Improve existing recreation field and add lights
8. Add intramural fields
9. Create a student village with green spaces
10. Provide additional residence halls
11. New aquatic center and faith based facilities
12. Significant pedestrian/vehicular conflicts
13. Provide bicycle paths
14. Improve vehicular access to and within campus
15. Shift parking out of the core
What sets NKU apart?

“A University that cares about students”

- Undergrad commuter student
- Undergrad residential student
- Graduate non-traditional student
Student Perspective

1. Comfortable campus scale
2. Lake, amphitheater, Library coffee shop are great
3. University center plaza and trees are great
   the north end is hot, uncomfortable and unpleasant
4. Campus needs a new image
5. Pedestrian/vehicular conflicts are a concern
6. We need a place to go that has things to do
7. Vehicular congestion and parking are a concern
Student Profile

60%  First generation college graduates
90%  Work: **66% Work more than half time**
44%  On campus less than 4 hours/week beyond class time
32%  On campus 4 to 8 hours beyond class time
55%  Late teens to 25 years of age
61%  Women
40%  Graduate in less than 6 years
     (of those that graduate)

Source: 2004 Senior Survey
What does it Mean?

60% First generation college graduates
  ▪ Easy to find entrances
  ▪ Understandable campus layout
  ▪ Comfortable campus scale

90% Work: 66% Work more than half time
  ▪ Efficient access to and within the campus
  ▪ Convenient parking

44% On campus less than 4 hours/week beyond class time
32% On campus 4 to 8 hours beyond class time
  ▪ Selective about support facilities to provide

55% Late teens to 25 years of age - traditional age

61% Women
  ▪ Personal security a concern

40% Graduate in less than 6 years
Open Space
Open Space Issues

1. Too much concrete and not enough open space
2. Campus lacks park-like setting
3. Lacks image place and object
4. Add another major outdoor feature
5. Deficient outdoor gathering places
6. Retrofit central core of campus
7. Library plaza is hot and uninviting
8. More mature big trees across the campus-evergreens
9. Add big trees along walkways
10. More green space and landscaping
11. Need faculty, student, and staff hang out and rest places
12. Irrigate planting areas
13. Create a traditional quadrangle using grass and big trees
14. Walk of Fame is a favorite place
Variety of Open Spaces

Identify future patterns which utilize development to create a vibrant and distinctive environment

Arrival Space
Image Space
Interaction Space
Discovery Space
Open Space Corridors
Setbacks
Recreation/ Athletic
Preservation Area
Buffer/ Screen

University of Southern Indiana
Successful NKU Spaces

What do these spaces have in common?
Student Orientation at NKU

What’s the Message?
Transforming the Central Core
Central Core Issues

1. Address the core campus
2. Soften the campus and create people spaces
3. Deficient outdoor student gathering places
4. Campus lacks park-like setting
5. Too much concrete and not enough open space
6. Provide more green space and landscaping
7. Add big trees along the walks
8. Needs image place and object – fountain or tower
9. Remove the sculpture box
10. North end of the central plaza is hot – lacks trees
11. Windy and uninviting in the winter
12. Unpleasant – too much concrete, and no trees

Source: Visit 1 Campus review sessions
Projecting a Positive and Distinctive Image

1. Physical campus reflects institutional priorities, commitments, and academic excellence

2. Best campuses typically have a distinctive central open space or natural feature

3. What is the most memorable or distinctive thing about the NKU campus?
Projecting a Positive and Distinctive Image

1. Physical campus reflects institutional priorities, commitments, and academic excellence

2. Best campuses typically have a distinctive central open space or natural feature

3. What is the most memorable or distinctive thing about the NKU campus?

What’s the problem?

NKU
North Plaza
Is this an Architectural Issue?
Architectural Evolution

Modernist Architecture
Started in Germany about 1900
Came to the USA following WW II

Curtain Wall Construction
1950s and 60’s Rib and Panel Construction made design repetitive

Sculptural Forms
Concrete - alternative to “glass box” design

Brutalism
(late 60s and 70s)

Main Stream Modernists
Historicists
Contextualists
Deconstructionist
Characteristics of Brutalism

1. Challenges human scale
2. Bold muscular expression of structure
3. Concrete: often rough textured
4. Sculptural building forms
5. Avoidance of repetitive window forms
6. Recessed doorways
7. Large/ massive buildings
8. Building form expresses interior space needs
9. Little regard for context - architect’s ego dominates
Modernism not Brutalism

Conclusion
- Good design
- Interesting configuration
- Defines the space

Architecture is not the problem
Why are these successful spaces?

What do these spaces have in common?
Why is this an unsuccessful space?
What are the Problems?

- Layout, scale, materials, site elements
- Too much concrete and too little treatment
- Inhuman Scale
- Concrete is not user friendly
Primary Open Space Comparisons

University of Michigan
Diag
500’ x 350’ = 4 acres

Eastern Michigan University
Proposed Main Quad
420’ x 500’ = 4.8 acres

NKU Benchmark Institution
## Main Open Space Comparison Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Total Space (acres)</th>
<th>Trees &amp; Grass</th>
<th>Paving</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Kentucky University</strong></td>
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<td>Central Plaza</td>
<td>800’ x 190’</td>
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<td>North</td>
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<td><strong>The University of Michigan</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Eastern Michigan University</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Main Quad</td>
<td>420’ x 500’</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>.50</td>
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</table>
Ground Plane Treatments

Others have similar problems
Collegiate Gothic

University of Washington
Main Library
Students want a traditional quad

University of Louisville
Health Sciences Center
Student Friendly Elements and Site Treatments

- Canopy (15' plus)
- Eye Level (2' to 15')
- Ground Plane (Up to 2')
Color would help
**NKU Image Statement**

### Issue:
Establish a campus symbol

- Doesn’t make it!
- More special and appealing
- More student friendly
- More visible – centrally located along major walkways
Creating an Image Statement

- Building
- Tower
- Symbol
- Sculpture
- Fountain
- Plaza
Natural Features
1. Use topography to help make the campus distinctive

2. Protect unique natural features: major ravines, outcroppings and woods

3. Protect wooded banks

4. Match development to slopes

Topographic Setting - Level Areas

Narrow Ravine
Forest Quality

No High Quality Forest
Medium Quality Woods

Provided by NKU
Stewardship and Sustainability Issues

1. Implement sustainability practices - rain gardens, green roofs
2. Use natural areas and future ponds as ecology classrooms
3. Protect natural areas and mature trees
4. Promote major natural areas
5. Create major buffer areas around the edges of campus
6. Enjoy walking in the woods behind Honors House
7. Make the campus more park-like
8. Norse is appealing
9. Too much paving and not enough permeable green space

Source: Visit 1 Campus review sessions
Sustainability Approach

1. Identification of special resources
2. Agreement on approaches and techniques
3. Creation of standards
4. Implementation of guidelines
   - Wise utilization of resources
   - Appropriate design
   - Special solutions - green roofs
   - Storm water management
     - Indigenous Plants
     - Porous Materials
     - Natural Filtration

Rain Garden
Pedestrian Circulation
Pedestrian Circulation Issues

1. Use enclosed walkways to connect buildings
2. Minimize pedestrian/vehicular conflicts
3. Create a pedestrian core
4. Improve accessibility by adding student friendly walks
5. Identify arena walkway corridors
6. Provide a walk along Johns Hill Road
7. Walking in the woods and behind Honors House
8. Poor pedestrian lighting
9. Not a pedestrian friendly campus - more walks
10. Improve ADA accessibility
11. Windy and uninviting in the winter

Source: Visit 1 Campus review sessions
Pedestrian Linkages

- Convey a sense of order that improves wayfinding
- Connect to all major destinations
- Minimize pedestrian/vehicular conflicts
- Provide all season protection from the weather
- Provide safe passage
Finding your way is Challenging
Creating and Defining Major Walk Corridors

Eastern Michigan University Master Plan
Pedestrian Routes

Main Street
Attracting Guests to Campus
Establishing Linkages - alternative to the car

- Create appropriate routes before the students create their own
Walk Distances

5 Minute Walk Radius
Entire academic core is within a 5 minute walk of the Central Plaza

10 Minute Walk Radius
All campus residential units are within a 10 min walk of the core

Lakeside Apartments are a 17 minute walk from the core (along Johns Hill Rd)
Transportation and Parking
Vehicular Circulation Issues

1. Reduce traffic backups surrounding campus
2. Improve major campus entry areas
3. Improve vehicular movement across the campus
4. Integrate proposed roadways into the campus network
5. Eliminate Kenton and Carroll Drives
6. Minimize pedestrian/vehicular conflicts
7. Get students out of their cars
8. Improve emergency and bus access
9. Create a central transit area
10. Screen the loading dock at the Welcome Center
11. Improve pedestrian/ bicycle/ vehicular accessibility
12. Increase bicycle use by adding paths Increase bus use

Source: Visit 1 Campus review sessions
Vicinity Patterns

1. Easy to get to the campus; difficult to find once you arrive
2. NKU is not visible from major public edges
3. Entry patterns are not easily perceived nor understood
4. Campus roads do not reflect a comprehensive network
Vehicular Approach Routes

- Campus is hidden behind other land uses
- Entrances are some distance
- Major roads encircle the core
Parking Issues

1. Add more parking
2. Shift parking out of core into perimeter
3. Create new parking lot west of Administration Building
4. Provide free garage parking
5. Control student parking in contiguous residential areas
6. Make it easier for visitors to find parking on campus
7. Gravel parking lot next to Albright is unattractive
8. Restricted parking (7a.m. to 7 p.m.) is hard on evening students arriving at 6 p.m.
9. Parking lots need to look more attractive

Source: Visit 1 Campus review sessions
Parking System

1. Parking will always be a challenge
2. Consider working students - on site and off site residents
3. Ensure a balance between gsf and parking - how much, where and when
4. How far are you willing to walk? What standard do we use?
5. Are you willing to use alternative modes of travel?
Campus Wide Patterns
Campus Wide Issues

1. Create a vision or campus wide theme
2. Soften the campus and create people space
3. Unify the campus and make it distinctive
4. Beautify the campus
5. Create a student village with green spaces for walking
6. Integrate residence halls within academic areas
7. Need to physically link buildings
8. Enjoys a strong sense of community
9. Prepare to accommodate significant growth
10. Lacks school colors across campus
11. Need eating and entertainment venues closer to campus
12. Initial impression is of concrete
13. Lacks campus town
Campus will assume a Linear Configuration

- Discourages pedestrian access
- Vehicular access will be from the west
- Interchange at each end of the linear campus
- Some expansion potential exists to the north: what about Gateway College’s future?
- Major expansion is anticipated southward
- Severe topography to the south
- If campus grows to the south, Johns Hill Rd will split the campus
Expanding to the South

- Recognizes need for additional recreational facilities
- If recreation goes here what occurs further south?

Prepared by others
Campus Town and Retail Facilities
Campus Town Issues

1. No place to eat on campus after hours
2. Lacks campus town
3. Create a campus town on or contiguous to campus
4. Create a student village with green spaces for walking
5. Create mixed use development near the by arena
6. Add variety of retail facilities
7. Need for less expensive housing close to campus
8. No place to go and few things to do
9. Commercial development threatens small town atmosphere
10. Applebees, Skyline Tavern, BW3 are student quiet places
11. Need for eating and entertainment venues closer to campus

Source: Visit 1 Campus review sessions
Need for a campus town close to campus

- If the town doesn’t come to campus, the University has to come to town.
Utility Issues

1. Understanding limitations
2. Making utilities less visible
   High tension lines
   North substation
3. Upgrade pedestrian lighting
Campus at Night

1. A different place - very quiet
2. Few people out and about
3. Inconsistent illumination
Master Plan

Goals
Master Plan Goals - Draft

- Instill pride in NKU
- Convey core institutional values
- Define a long term vision which uses growth to achieve a distinctive and memorable campus
- Create a unified, well organized, understandable and accessible layout
- Communicate a vision that demonstrates excellence – academically, and in terms of socially responsibility
- Contribute to the sense of community within the campus and the region
- Serve the people of the Commonwealth
## Schedule

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**Next Campus Visit**

January 8, 9, and 10, 2008

Alternatives

Visit 3