UW-MILWAUKEE CAPITAL PLANNING ISSUES AND THEMES

The 2010 campus master plan documented specific space deficiencies related to each of the campus goals described above. In total (without residence facilities), the master plan documented a deficit of 696,977 ASF compared to its current space and projected needs in ten years. These deficiencies and goals provide the framework for UWM’s capital budget planning. The issues and themes outlined here are based on conversations with campus leadership who identified numerous specific needs that fall into these basic categories.

A. General Purpose Revenue (GPR) Supported Facilities and Functions

1. Student Learning Experience

The 2010 master plan documented the need for an additional 31,000 ASF of classroom space (as well as additional office space). Recent projects at UWM have addressed this issue through the addition of new instructional space in the Northwest Quadrant and Kenwood IRC; contributing to a current surplus of classroom space. However, reviewing the UWM Classroom Demand file, one will see that an overabundance of large format lecture halls (200+ seats) skews the overall needs analysis. UWM continues to fall short of demand for small format classrooms in the 20 – 60 seat categories. While the university can function through this shortage by bumping smaller class sections into larger rooms, this creates a less than ideal teaching environment. Further, many of the existing classrooms are furnished at a defunct area ratio of <20 ASF/student; which does not meet UW System standards of 30 ASF/student. To begin adjusting existing classrooms to that standard, UWM will need additional, appropriately sized spaces.

In addition to quantity of space, UWM needs higher quality classroom space that accommodates modern student learning pedagogical approaches. Many of our 160 classrooms are in older buildings that are difficult to reconfigure to provide the flexible, interactive learning environment required for our active learning strategies. Physical limitations of older buildings such as column and bearing wall locations; floor-to-floor ceiling height limitations, and lecture halls with tiered seating are deterrents to conversion of existing buildings to accommodate modern peer-learning pedagogy.

Our student learning activities require more classroom space as well as spaces designed specifically for active learning. Our facilities will need to be designed for the digital environment, and include technology support for both learning and research. One strategy for enhancing our students’ learning and development will be to bring together learning spaces from different disciplines to provide students exposure to interdisciplinary career opportunities.

2. Research Growth and Partnerships

The campus goals have clarified that UWM requires several types of facilities related to research growth and partnerships. One critical space requirement is to maintain research space for the current research activity within our programs. A main challenge is that several research buildings are in desperate need of renovation (EMS, Chemistry) or demolition (Physics) because of their age. There are some programs with expanding research activity (Health Sciences and Nursing) that will require new space, most likely within renovated spaces in the NW Quad.

Our goal of increasing cross-disciplinary research will require a new and different type of space than we have previously constructed. We need a variety of facilities (wet and dry labs, project spaces, etc.) that can accommodate collaborative work across a range of disciplines. The space needs to be flexible and assignable to different projects as needs arise over the coming decades. Digital technology will need to be integrated with all functions from the design phase forward. Finally, the space will need to accommodate collaborative spaces where faculty and students can interact in meaningful and impromptu
ways to develop innovative ideas. The SWQ redevelopment planning is an opportunity for this type of space.

3. Community Engagement

Our community engagement activities require both on-campus and off-campus facilities. Within our current footprint, we lack dedicated spaces for our engagement activities. Off-campus we currently operate in a variety of sites – community partners provide some, others are leased.

Some of the critical needs are for facilities that allow us to act as a resource and consultation center for the underserved areas of our community. We provide assistance to limited metropolitan areas but need to expand the reach of our engagement. Our faculty could provide more direct clinical help but lack the infrastructure to support such activity.

Another dimension to engaging our community is that UWM provides cultural programming that serves both the university and the surrounding area. The current facilities are aging and no longer serve our needs. In addition, we lack space and access systems on campus to bring in community groups to engage with our faculty and students. Welcoming and accommodating parking and transit systems are critical to UWM’s goal of community partnership. (Which is pointed out in the UWM Transportation Study).

Finally, there is a need to develop a reliable infrastructure that can provide the remote connectivity between our dispersed sites. This is needed to support the community engagement activities that, by their very nature, occur across the metropolitan area.

4. Student Life

Student life spaces are underdeveloped at UWM. The Campus Master Plan noted a deficit of 319,000 ASF in this area. Some of the needs fall under GPR projects, others are proposed for program revenue funding (see below).

One need is for collaborative learning spaces distributed around campus, particularly within our academic buildings. These are needed to provide informal spaces for student learning and research collaborations. These sites for impromptu interactions underlie our learning and research initiatives because they allow sharing of ideas and innovations.

5. Operational Excellence

The campus has struggled to provide adequate and suitable space for operations. Some units are widely scattered, while others are overly compressed. The campus master plan identified the need to add space for support functions (20,000 ASF) and to reconfigure existing spaces to be more efficient. In addition, the plan noted that the Library requires an additional 160,000 ASF to fulfill its programmatic needs.

The most pressing issues are to develop a centralized IT facility, reconfigure and expand the spaces for operations (possibly includes some space off the Kenwood campus), and to expand the Library.

6. Specific Items

Specific buildings and facilities presenting urgent needs for capital replacement or renovation include the following:

- Chemistry Building
- EMS Building
- Replacement of Neeskay (Great Lakes research vessel)
- Clinical facilities serving our fast-growing Colleges of Health Science and Nursing
- Behavioral Analytic Space
- Need for adequate standby electrical power capacity to keep core technology and business systems operational in event of power disruption
- Need for Wet Lab space
- Expansion of Animal Care Facilities

Planning studies and preliminary designs relating to the NWQ and the Southwest Quadrant ("SWQ") have documented the detailed needs and program details for many of these and other facilities.

B. Program Revenue (PR) Supported Facilities and Functions

1. Student Life

The bulk of the student life space needs fall into the PR category. These include a number of specific issues that have developed over the last few decades. The Student Union no longer meets our students' needs since our student body is larger and includes more residential students than when the facility was built (opened in 1956 and enlarged in 1972). It does not provide adequate space, and there is a need to upgrade systems and services to meet current needs. Beyond the Union, there is a need for small social spaces around campus to facilitate informal discussions and the sharing of ideas.

The Master Plan 2010 pointed out an athletic space deficit of 166,000 ASF. The space deficit identifies a need for a Basketball Practice Facility that also will allow additional recreational space for our students here at UWM.

Although UWM has added new housing facilities, the Honors Program has a need for dedicated housing/student life space.

2. Operational Excellence

Operational excellence also relates to the quality of our research and overall academic spaces on campus, which have been deteriorating over the last several bienniums due to the lack of maintenance dollars to maintain these spaces.

One pressing need is to develop a campus/regional plan to address parking and transit needs. The current system is inadequate to serve the UWM community, as documented by the Campus Master Plan as well as the UWM Parking & Transportation Study (2015).

Following the 2015 Parking & Transit Study, UWM has utilized data and recommendations to springboard new programs, transportation management systems and has introduced new technologies to better manage assets. Though increased parking capacity will always be welcomed and utilized, the university has taken a pro-active approach to making the most of the limited existing resources.