



BROOKLYN COLLEGE MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT Brooklyn, New York

UPDATE * UPDATE * UPDATE

Revised

16 May 2012

Over the last several months, the architects and planners have been gathering information and input that will contribute to understanding both the immediate and long term needs of our campus. This information gathering is ongoing and will continue into the fall.

The planners have used a variety of outreach methods, including hosting an open Town Hall Kick-Off meeting back in December of 2009, establishing a “comments box” on the College’s web-site and conducting one-on-one interviews with representatives from the departments and programs listed and highlighted in bold at the end of this document. Those listed, but not highlighted, will be contacted to schedule interviews either for the end of the semester, over the summer or in the early Fall, when the semester begins. If you’ve not been contacted yet, please be patient. The team will meet with all of the groups identified, prior to developing any plans or recommendations for the future.

To date, the planners have held two meetings with the Working Committee (established specifically for this project), conducted interviews with 30 faculty, staff or administrators and reviewed and compiled the more than 200 comments received by students, faculty and staff via the website comment box. They have also conducted preliminary evaluations of all of our buildings, documenting how spaces are currently being used, the location of all vacant spaces and where significant improvements are required. In addition, they have made note of the types of spaces that are “missing” based on what other college campuses similar to ours are currently providing.

A. Summary of Building Evaluations and Space Use Recommendations

The planners/architects toured each of the buildings on campus in detail, noting the condition of individual spaces, including corridors, lobby and public areas – highlighting those areas in need or maintenance or upgrade. They also verified and mapped how each space in each building is being used and by what department/program – noting where recent renovations have been made to accommodate changes in use, etc. The team also noted aging infrastructure, lack of temperature control, lack of proper signage and lighting, water infiltration, etc. Finally, they noted locations where vacant space current exists.

A key component of the master plan update is “marrying” this evaluation of how buildings and facilities are currently used with what the administration and departments feel is necessary to deliver their educational programs now and in the future. The master plan amendment will recommend providing additional space to departments and programs where such expansion is warranted. In addition, if appropriate, the master plan will also recommend relocating activities or departments in order to improve adjacencies and or efficiencies of operations. Finally, in response to needs that are expressed and/or what other Colleges are providing (if applicable), the master plan amendment will recommend new uses and activities. In light of this, even though there is a short-term need for space on the part of some departments *and* there is vacant space in certain buildings, including the first floor and lower level of Boylan Hall, the planners ***stress the importance of not making “ad-hoc” decisions about the use of this space*** without a long-term plan in place.

B. Web Survey

Those who have responded to the web survey whether they be students, faculty or staff, share very similar perspectives regarding the physical attributes of Brooklyn College. It is clear that we as a community care deeply about our campus and very much appreciate the environment we have, yet we also recognize that

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substantial improvements to our buildings are necessary both short and long term if we are to remain competitive.

Some of the feedback received to date includes the following:

“What do you like most about the existing facilities/grounds?”

The overwhelming majority of respondents (students, faculty and staff alike) replied that the exterior of the campus - its architecture, the landscape and especially the Lily Pond are held in very high regard and are elements that make Brooklyn College special. The Library and Library Café are also favorite spaces of everyone surveyed; and for students particularly, the new West Quad athletic center is quickly becoming a popular destination.

“The Need for Improvements”

Roughly 60% of students and staff replied that the most needed improvements on campus are the interior renovations to our building. According to 75% of the faculty who responded, the need for more and better offices and classrooms rank as their number one priority. Creating a more sustainability and environmentally responsive environment, offering a healthier menu of choices in the cafeteria, providing a better and/or additional dining facility, and having access to a more extensive/comprehensive WiFi network throughout campus were high on the list of the majority of respondents ‘most needed items’.

“What’s Missing?”

Twenty percent of students, faculty and staff who responded to our comment box, said that multiple access/entries to James Hall is a missing component of the campus. Another 20% of the faculty and staff felt that the College was missing a sufficient amount of office/storage space, a result of recent growth in faculty and staff personnel. While 20% of the students are concerned about inadequate social/study/collaborative spaces on campus, more than 30% of the faculty and 15% of staff echoed their concerns - recognizing that these types of spaces are missing from Brooklyn College today.

C. Input from Interviews

While it is premature to draw any conclusions or findings from the interviews that have been undertaken to date, the planners’ efforts focused on the following:

- An analysis of the square footage/per fulltime faculty line/per department currently assigned as of Fall 2009 versus what is needed. A comparison of what is currently assigned versus what is the projected need in the Fall of 2015 and Fall 2020 was also done. The analysis demonstrates where space allocations should either be increased or decreased based on standards for space use.
- An analysis of the total number of Student FTEs (Full Time Equivalent) for certain departments, illustrating how the number of FTEs has changed (increased or decreased) since 2005 as well as the change projected to 2015.
- An analysis of the Weekly Contact Hours for certain departments (existing and projected)
- An analysis of lab space utilization, including an analysis of the square footage allocated per station count for various teaching laboratories

Once interviews have been completed with *all of the groups*, this information will be compiled, analyzed and synthesized, providing the College and planners with one of several tools which will be used to allocate space on campus, informing the master plan amendment.

RECOMMENDATIONS – KEEP THE COMMENTS COMING!

It is too early for the architectural team or the Working Committee to draw any conclusions or to make recommendations. Instead, we would like to encourage you and your fellow classmates and colleagues, if you haven't done so already, to visit the Comment Box and express your likes, dislikes and aspirations so that your voices can be heard. Please look for updates on the web site over the upcoming months, including the date for an Open Forum to be scheduled during the early part of the fall semester.

INTERVIEWS

(The departments/programs listed below in bold represent interviews that have been completed to date. Those not highlighted will be contacted to have interviews scheduled.)

Group 1 (Unique Programs and Departments)

Academic Information Technologies
Admissions Information Center (AIC)
Brooklyn College Foundation, Inc.
Campus Support Services
Career Development and Internships
Center for Achievement in Science Education
Center for Student Disability Services
Center for Teaching
Center for the Study of Brooklyn
Children's Studies Program & Center
CLAS Student Government Offices
Classics
Early Childhood Center
English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) Program
Financial Aid
Macaulay Honors College
Personal Counseling
Provost
Research and Sponsored Programs
SEEK
Student Center

Group 2 (Academics)

Africana Studies
Anthropology and Archaeology
Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC)
Art
Asian Studies Program
B.A.-M.D. Program
BC Community Partnership for Research and Learning
Biology
Brooklyn Center Cinema
Chemistry
Computer and Information Science
Diversity and Equity Programs, Office of
Economics
Education, School of
English
Environmental Studies
Film
Geology
Health and Nutrition Sciences

History

Italian-American Studies, Center for

Judaic Studies

Mathematics

Modern Languages and Literatures

Music, Conservatory of

Philosophy

Physical Education and Exercise Science

Physics

Political Science

Professional Advancement & Continuing Education (P.A.C.E.)

Psychology

Puerto Rican and Latino Studies

Sociology

Speech Communication Arts and Sciences

Theater

Women's Center

Women's Studies

Group 3

Academic Advisement Center

Alumni Affairs

Alumni Association of Brooklyn College Brooklyn Center of Performing Arts

Campus and Community Safety Services

Environmental Sciences Analytical Center (ESAC)

Facilities Planning and Operations, Office of the Assistant Vice-President

Finance, Budget & Planning/Comptroller, Office of the Asst. Vice-President

Graduate Studies and Research, Office of the Dean of

Health Clinic

Human Resource Services

Learning Center

Library

Recreation, Intramurals, and Intercollegiate Athletics

Student Testing

Group 4

President's Office

Student Affairs Division of/Dean of Student Affairs

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