

Built Environment and Infrastructure Advisory Council Charter

Introduction

Understanding that MSU Denver is at an inflection point in its history, and that the institution is poised to become one of America's preeminent urban universities, President Davidson proposed a bold vision for MSU Denver. In advancing her vision, the President proposed five areas of focus for achieving the goal of becoming a model university that is defined more by whom is included than by whom is excluded. The five focus areas are: Strengthen student success, Address shrinking resources, Invest in people, Deliver on the promise, and Lead inclusively and with intention.

To enact the fifth focus area (Lead inclusively and with intention), six Advisory Councils have been formed. The purpose of the councils is to address strategic issues of critical importance to the University's mission of providing a high-quality, accessible, enriching education that prepares students for successful careers, post-graduate education and lifelong learning in a multicultural, global and technological society. These advisory councils are sub-cabinet permanent structures and are designed to identify issues and advise senior leadership.

As one of the six councils, the Built Environment and Infrastructure Advisory Council focuses on the challenges and potential of the space of the MSU Denver campuses to ensure that the space aligns with the academic priorities of the institution. The following Charter establishes and guides this council.

Problem Statement

Since its beginning in 1965, the institution has focused on providing access to higher education and the opportunities derived therefrom to students of all backgrounds. Despite being a young institution of higher education and only achieving university status in 2012, MSU Denver has experienced phenomenal growth in terms of enrollment and space allocation. With an enrollment hovering around 20,000 students, MSU Denver is considered a large institution. With growth over time, though, comes shifting priorities and physical infrastructural challenges.

Some of the issues the Built Environment & Infrastructure Advisory Council will face are:

1. The evolving academic priorities of the institution.
2. Lack of authority to maintain or update buildings and other facilities on the Main campus that are operated by AHEC.
3. Increasing competition for space and resource allocation from the other two institutions that occupy the Auraria Campus. Being an urban University creates unique struggles on its own, and being a shared campus complicates the issues further.
 - a. Do we focus energies on agreements with partner universities on campus, or shall we look to partner with entities off campus on adjacent plots of land?

4. Vague existing Master Plan for the Main and South campuses.
5. Inaccurate or conflicting data concerning usage and amount of space needed for programs on the Main and South campuses.
 - a. How much space does each program need? How much are they currently using and is the space being used efficiently?
6. Lack or inefficient use of funding to support space allocations for academic priorities.

Charge

1. Clarifying the academic priorities of MSU Denver, and then utilizing the academic priorities of the University to guide physical space and infrastructural recommendations.
2. Ensuring that the physical campuses and infrastructures align with the values of the institution. Given that the institution clearly defines its core values as Community, Access, Diversity, Respect, and Entrepreneurship (CADRE), the physical space must reflect and advance these values throughout its buildings and campus structures.
3. Navigating the complex relationships of the three institutions and AHEC on the property of the Main campus, while advancing our priorities and objectives as a model urban university.
4. Auditing the uses of existing buildings and structures on the Main and South campuses to determine if they are being used efficiently and in fulfillment of the University's mission and academic priorities.
5. Determining the need to renovate or repurpose spaces (buildings, classrooms, laboratories, theaters, offices, gyms, open spaces, etc.) in order to advance the academic priorities and mission of the University.
 - a. Prioritizing these needs in accordance with the Core Values of the institution (particularly Access – accessibility of physical space as well as providing an accessible environment for all students), urgency of changes needed, state and federal regulations, and defined identity of the university.
6. Determining the need for new buildings (either new builds or rented space) to support the evolving direction of the University.
 - a. Are residence halls the next step in substantially advancing the academic priorities and mission of the university?
 - b. How can we address the issues of affordable housing for faculty, staff, and students?
7. Assessing funding sources for building, renting, renovating, operating, and maintaining buildings.

Membership

Lead: Liz Hinde

Co-Lead: Tina Wells

Mike Hart (IT)

Linda Lang-Peralta (Assoc Dean LAS)

Louis Morpew (Campus Rec)

Becky Nemece (Nursing)

Jacob Welch (Theater)

Phil Mann (Art)

Metza Templeton (Classified Staff Council)

AHEC Representative

Student Representative