

Stephen F. Austin State University Master Plan | Kickoff & Campus Tour

November 13, 2024 | Baker Pattillo Student Center, CARRI Campus, DeWitt School of Nursing

Meeting Overview & Takeaways

Attendance: Stephen F. Austin State University, Campus Master Plan Steering Committee
Two Fifteen Consulting (Consulting Engineer for SFA)
Freese & Nichols, Inc. (Prime Consultant)
Facility Programming and Consulting (Subconsultant)

Overview: The project team conducted a two-day tour of the Main Campus and satellite locations (the CARRI center and DeWitt School of Nursing), concluding the trip with a kick-off meeting with the Campus Master Plan Steering Committee.

Takeaways: The following themes emerged from physical observations made during the campus tour and the steering committee meeting:

Notable assets and features

- Natural and built beauty of campus (number of trees, brick aesthetic, vistas and sight lines, trails and gardens)
- Historic buildings (Austin and Rusk), paired with more modern facilities
- Raguet Street pedestrian corridor
- Minimal vehicular streets running through campus

Overall Opportunities

- A centralized green “quad” space with shade
- Improve accessibility and lighting across campus (“safety walk” success)
- Pedestrian improvements along Raguet and other corridors
- Ag Pond repairs and improvements
- Improve historic building functionality and conditions (Austin, Rusk)
- Stone fort improvements and/or relocation
- Library improvements and efficiency
- Update aging resident halls and/or establish new resident halls
- Bring off-campus functions back on campus (Nursing, Baseball and Softball complexes)
- Protect and improve the various gardens
- Improve/activate the Lanana Creek and Ag Pond areas together. Potential riverwalk, student lawn area, athletic pre-game events, etc. (e.g., Texas State University and San Marcos River).
- Re-program Rusk into one-stop shop for prospective and existing student services
- Build a new Welcome Center
- Remove houses along E. Austin Street (north of campus)
- Establish outdoor spaces for student activities and studying
- Create more on-campus storage solutions

- Improve parking education, functionality, location, and amount where warranted
- Potential relocation of parking to edges to all redevelopment of parking lots for highest and best uses

Overall Constraints

- Floodplains and floodway, particularly along the Lanana Creek
- Complaints about commuter parking availability
- Accessibility (ADA) shortcomings across campus
- Available funds and ability to fundraise
- Distance from downtown Nacogdoches and lack of student life opportunities adjacent to campus
- Being landlocked by developed properties restricts the ability to expand easily
- Raguet Elementary School ground lease
- U.S. Forest Service building
- Need to be strategic about utilities (water, fiber, electricity, etc.)
- Nacogdoches is not a walking-friendly environment
- Lack of small starter homes for faculty and staff
- Natural topography challenges
- Aging buildings (e.g., Miller Science)
- Signage and wayfinding is lacking clarity and character

Overall Vision

- A welcoming place where students want to live and participate for four years
- To have “state of the art” modern facilities while maintaining the historic nature that makes SFA so special
- Continual facility upgrades
- High student retention
- Create a campus where faculty, staff and students want to be and stay (we don’t want them to leave on the weekends)
- Create a thriving atmosphere
- Be a destination, not a temporary location
- Keep advancing technology
- Increase enrollment
- Healthy mix between modern and historical
- Create employable students that can have successful careers
- Opportunities for growth while maintaining character (“who we are”)
- Fully utilize our academic and student spaces
- Create a welcoming experience

DeWitt School of Nursing Comments

- It’s a signature program, but 3 miles from campus
- The existing buildings have roof drainage/leaking issues
- Challenge for students to get there
- Challenge for scheduling
- Aesthetics, “looks like a nursing home”

- Building design makes it hard to update technology (closed ceilings, for example); wasn't designed for flexibility
- Lack of amenities there (food, dining, student resources, etc.)

Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation (CARRI) Comments

- Potential solution to the on-campus storage shortage
- Potential location for construction management
- Potential colocation with local community / community college
- Training, seminars, conference rooms, reception space
- Strengthen the academic fabric of region
- Industrial maker space, welding shop, 3-D printers for local business use, prototyping facility