CAMERON UNIVERSITY
LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES

December 8, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cameron University Long-Range Planning Committee met on Monday, December 8, 2008. Chair Mary Penick called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in Room 104 of the Student Union.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Mary Penick presided. David Fennema, Carla Guthridge, James Heflin, John Hodgson, Chris Keller, Monika Linehan, Anton Wohlers. Also in attendance were Vice President Glen Pinkston and Vice President John McArthur.

Absent: Syed Ahmed, Courtney Glazer.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the November 3, 2008, meeting. James Heflin moved that the minutes of the November 3, 2008, meeting be approved as printed. Chris Keller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Penick welcomed Vice President Glen Pinkston and stated that he would speak to the Committee regarding the Cameron University Campus Master Plan of Capital Projects for fiscal years 2009-2013.

Vice President Pinkston began by providing background information regarding the Master Plan. Late in 2004, Cameron initiated a Campus Master Plan, which involved input from faculty, students, and the community and matched the objectives of Plan 2008. A report was developed that identified campus issues and touched on building locations, architects for CETES, and landscape architects, which became a large part of the Master Plan. He stated that the Master Plan was essentially a wish list funded through Section 13 and Section 13 offset capital equipment funds. He explained that in Oklahoma, large tracts of land are assigned section numbers. State revenues collected from Section 13 go into funds for certain schools. Section 13 offset funds are for schools not included in Section 13. Cameron receives both types of funds. In order to receive funds, a project must be on the Master Plan. All projects go before the Board of Regents and then before the State of Oklahoma Long-Range Capital Planning Commission for funding approval. The Master Plan is established on a rolling 5-year calendar. To become part of the Master Plan, a project must be submitted to the Cameron Executive Council.

Chair Penick inquired if a faculty center would need to be on the Master Plan. Vice President Pinkston clarified that all new classroom buildings must be on the list as well as the remodeling of existing buildings. Other list items would include parking lots, sidewalks, and equipment as well as improvements to traffic and pedestrian areas. He went on to state that it is not unusual for a master plan to have a 15- to 20-year planning horizon, but that Cameron's Master Plan has a 10-year horizon, which will need to be redone in 2012-2013.

Vice President Pinkston emphasized that the Master Plan has not sat on a shelf and many of the projects have been realized. Trees in a variety of sizes have been planted to define Cameron's border. The clock tower is in place. Pedestrian problems have been identified and addressed. The South Shepler parking lot was built with tree wells. He stated that there were many things to note on the Master Plan. A design for a new library is in place. The old business building was not worth renovating and the old dorm contained wonderful faculty space but was not suited for classrooms. Therefore, a new business building will go west of the Science Complex. Plans for additional Cameron Village space to the south are also on the list as well as plans for a north/south campus.
corridor. Plans for the expansion of Unity Park east of the Administration building are under development.

Chair Penick asked whether the Master Plan would be updated in 2015. Vice President McArthur stated that a new one would be addressed in 2012, while the university developed Plan 2017.

Vice President Pinkston noted that Cameron settled on a lighting standard recently. All aggregate light poles will be replaced with traditional-looking Columbia bollards (similar to those at OU) with one luminaire standard, providing a consistent look and feel around campus.

Tony Wohlers questioned the choice of trees planted around campus, as many do not survive the regional climate. Vice President Pinkston stated that Cameron contacted an arborist concerning this dilemma. It was discovered that the problem was not the type of trees, but how they were grown. Cameron had purchased “ball and burlap” trees, trees that were cut down around the roots and wrapped in burlap for transport. The arborist explained that ball and burlap trees experience 85 percent root loss, creating stress for younger trees. Cameron has switched to using container grown trees, which are smaller but have their root system intact, leading to healthier trees. Furthermore, Cameron is using more berms with better dirt. Vice President Pinkston also noted that we had a very dry summer, which adversely affected many younger trees.

Chair Penick inquired whether Cameron would install additional sprinkler systems. Vice President Pinkston replied that all new garden areas would have irrigation. In addition, low maintenance plants such as Hawthorne and Knockout Roses will be planted. A new irrigation system for the trees is also planned. Cameron does not have funds to add additional grounds crew; therefore, they need the proper tools to eliminate additional maintenance.

The discussion turned to ADA retrofitting of old buildings. Vice President Pinkston stated that $600,000 was award for accessibility and most of that has been spent. There are now ADA entrances on every building on campus. Three rounds of ADA bathrooms are in the plan, with two rounds complete. There will be a least one men’s and one women’s ADA bathroom in each building. Sometimes the retrofitting requires minor adjustments, but at other times it requires major reconstruction, such as widening doors in brick encasement. He also stated that as needs arise, they are addressed. Carla Guthridge inquired if ADA students were involved in the planning. Vice President McArthur replied that the Spring 2007 Civil Rights Review identified students who provided feedback to set priorities. He also noted that all new construction must be ADA compliant. Vice President Pinkston added that the administration also receives student input from SGA officers, including input regarding campus safety. One safety problem identified is the lack of lighting in the library parking lot. Unfortunately, this parking lot does not have direct access to electricity.

Tony Wohlers suggested an item for the Master Plan list: using thermal heating and wind turbine energy for all future buildings. Vice President Pinkston responded that CETES does use geothermal wells. The architects charged with life cycle costs proposed 80 400’ wells around CETES. However, not all could be drilled. The use of geothermal wells is determined by whether the site can support them. Vice President Pinkston stated that a wind turbine project is part of the academic program in Duncan, where people are trained to service turbines. He suggested that wind turbines would be a good source of power for the Cameron baseball field, but they are expensive ($1.9 million) and the state will not contribute. He also noted two other energy conservation measures on campus: 1) Shepler windows were replaced with low-E glass and 2) exterior lights on buildings were replaced with LED lights. Tony Wohlers inquired if any buildings on campus could be fitted for solar energy. John Hodgson replied that the Science Complex and dorms use solar energy for heating water.

David Fennema asked if the temperature on the heating/cooling system could be set at a constant 70 degrees. Vice President Pinkston replied that there is an issue with the cooling zones, and it is difficult to please everyone. It is particularly difficult to regulate the temperature during the shoulder months of October and April when outdoor temperatures can vary by as much as 20 degrees. However, he acknowledged that even though most buildings on campus have reached their cooling/heating goals, there is still a problem with the theatre. Work continues to find the best energy fit for each building through window replacement and energy management.
Chair Penick asked if furniture could be purchased for the lobbies of Howell Hall and Nance Boyer. Vice President Pinkston stated that furniture was on the Master Plan list. However, there are fire code issues for some areas where hallways are too narrow and furniture would become a safety hazard.

Carla Guthridge inquired about the administration’s outlook of student population growth. Vice President Pinkston related that when he started at Cameron, Dr. McKellups informed him that Cameron could grow by 50% and not require additional classroom space if classes were scheduled better. Vice President McArthur added that Cameron could have 7,500 students if we scheduled like OU. Vice President Pinkston stated that there are no working plans to expand buildings because there are no working funds. However, there are plans in development for repurposing space such as the Student Union. Shepler will be converted back into residential space and there are plans to convert West Hall into a TV studio. A student health clinic has been requested and is needed; therefore, plans are in the works for a Wellness Center with a PA, possibly located in the old Childhood Development Center. Vice President Pinkston made clear that the cycle of money is the problem in realizing these projects. Chair Penick inquired about plans for the Student Government building. Vice President Pinkston stated that currently there are no plans. It is a large space with 3,000 square feet and there are many requests for its use.

Vice President Pinkston stated that he would send copies to the Committee of the Campus Master Plan, documenting what the look and feel of Cameron will be. It will include the entire campus image, from landscaping to lighting. Buildings will be made of cast stone and Cameron blend brick with pitched roofs of shingles that look like slate. Vice President Pinkston emphasized that he is pleased with the progress made on the Master Plan. Everyone can see the improvements. The Master Plan continues to guide what we do. He attributed President Ross’s vision and guidance in creating a campus look in everything from the new Cameron House sign to the Bentley Gardens.

Chair Penick thanked Vice President Pinkston and Vice President McArthur for attending our meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

David Fennema moved to adjourn the meeting. Carla Guthridge seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The Long-Range Planning Committee will meet again on Monday, January 26, 2009, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 104 of the Student Union.

Respectfully submitted
Monika Linehan
Secretary, Long-Range Planning Committee