

THE PROJECT

The American University in Cairo is relocating from downtown Cairo to a 260-acre site east of the city in New Cairo. Through a participatory process, DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) developed the Facility Program for all the building components. Included were facilities for academic, administrative, athletic, library, physical plant, student life, and support service uses; as well as faculty and student housing and day care. A total of 1.25 million net square feet of assignable space was programmed for the new construction, which translates into almost 2 million gross square feet.

The Facility Program included a description of the purpose, size, organization, and space assumptions for the new campus. This data was used to develop the campus plan, and subsequently expanded to provide the architect and engineering design teams with sufficient information and criteria to prepare schematic designs and construction drawings.

CHALLENGE

- To comprehensively define School, Department, and Administrative Unit needs
- To ensure appropriate and equitable space allocations
- To assist in building the case for a major re-making of the University

SOLUTION

DLM worked with the University over the space of three years in three major phases: defining the summary program, refining the program, and developing the detailed program.

The first phase was the most interactive and extensive. DLM worked with an oversight group of senior administrators to confirm the mission, vision and goals for the new campus development. The committee also helped establish the process of interviewing each department on campus, developing a draft description of space needs, and reporting back to the departments for comment and adjustment.

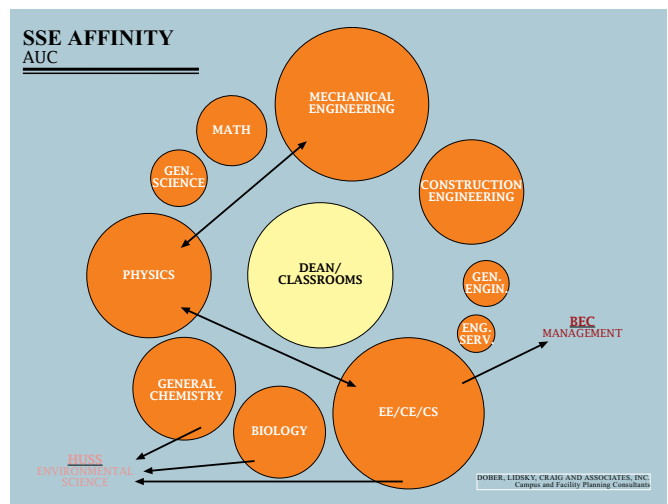
The second phase involved submitting the draft program to a variety of analyses to confirm that the statement of needs would both truly support AUC's vision, while not creating an unaffordably large project. Peer comparisons at the campus and departmental level were conducted; the combined departmental requests were consolidated and streamlined for efficiency; and preliminary statements of school, unit and departmental adjacency were considered to ensure rational distribution of space resources.



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
(Under Construction Winter 2006)



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
(Under Construction Winter 2006)



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ADJACENCY DIAGRAM

The third phase followed institutional approval of the summary program. This phase developed detailed descriptions of each space required. Seventy five characteristics of each space were systematically described.

RESULTS

The DLM team, working in conjunction with the AUC community led a rigorous and disciplined process to produce a complete, well-reasoned, and thoroughly verified description of all spaces required to create the new campus imagined. This information was developed to provide the subsequently selected campus planning consultants and later, the architect/engineer teams commissioned to design the campus buildings with essential information to initiate their designs. The new campus completion in February, 2009.

*Project completed under previous name: Dober, Lidsky, Craig and Associates, Inc.

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