CAMPUS PLAN 2012/2013, Updates 2017, 2024

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY
Clarksville, TN

THE PROJECT
Dober Lidsky Mathey, and their team, have worked with Austin Peay State University (APSU) since 2012 on the development of the first master plan, two updates, and the 2024 master plan. The most recent master plan takes advantage of the success of the previous plans that focused on a combination of new construction and renovation by focusing on renovation and reusing existing space. When the new Health Professions building, currently under construction, is complete and occupied, the departments moving into that building will vacate space in three buildings.

Reusing those buildings provided an opportunity for other buildings to be renovated. The key renovation projects included the Military Academic Building, University College, the re-imagination of the library, space for the Department of Mass Communications, Criminal Justice, Psychological Science and Counseling, and the renovation of Ellington Hall. There are two small new construction projects: an addition to the Business School and the expansion of the Little Govs Center.

CHALLENGE
Dober Lidsky Mathey designed the space guidelines for the THEC system of universities and community colleges. With the application of these guidelines, the conclusion was that APSU has sufficient space for current on-ground FTE students but will need additional space in the future. However, looking at the next ten years, the best approach was renovating existing space and deciding which departments needed additional space and which buildings should be renovated. The campus lacks landscaped open spaces and a consistent, safe, and well-designed pedestrian walkway system. Development is restricted due to topography with several karst features. There are significant gaps in pedestrian circulation between the campus core and academic buildings on the east side of campus and pedestrian travel between the north side of campus and the core and across College Avenue. With a largely commuter student enrollment and future growth, there is a need for landscaped additional parking.

SOLUTION
Through a participatory campus planning and design process based on the University's vision and strategic plan, needs were identified, priorities articulated, and consensus reached for a plan for the future.

Essentially, to meet THEC facility space standards, the University wisely chose to reuse existing vacated space in three buildings, Dunn, Clemment, and McCord, and reinforced student life and academic programs by relocating the new University College to the center of the campus, in the Memorial Health building.

ILLUSTRATIVE CAMPUS PLAN

This strategic move not only optimizes space but also enhances the student experience. Other buildings are to be renovated—student dorms, and Ellington, another student-oriented resource, and with the Military Academic Building, brought four academic units together with shared resources and facilities, fostering a collaborative academic environment.

The campus plan identifies landscaped open spaces, reinforces and enhances student pedestrian movement, identifies the location of enhanced vehicular/pedestrian intersections, and recommends closing a portion of Marion Street.

AWARD
American School & University 2013 "Architectural Portfolio" award for Austin Peay State University Campus Plan 2012-2013 for outstanding designs: Campus Master Planning.

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