



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

REGULAR CALENDAR ITEM: I.

MEETING DATE: May 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Tennessee Technological University Master Plan

ITEM TYPE: Action

ACTION RECOMMENDATION: Approval

BACKGROUND

Campus Master Plans are an essential element of higher education public policy. Master Plans provide an opportunity for long-range planning that incorporates the institution's needs and ambitions, while also providing the public and state government a sense for how the institution might evolve over time. Whether the acquisition of strategic property, the need for and efficient use of facilities, or an analysis of how the campus footprint meshes with the surrounding community, Master Plans provide a method of anticipating and preparing for the future needs of the campus and the students it serves. THEC requires institutions to produce a Master Plan every ten years that addresses short-, mid-, and long-term needs of the campus with respect to building and land use, open space, vehicular circulation, and parking, and land acquisition opportunities. Pursuant to THEC Policy 4.1.30B, institutions may amend a Master Plan in consideration of changes that are consistent with the objectives of the original plan.

MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

The major initiatives of the 2014 Master Plan were to develop science facilities for chemistry, biology, physics and earth sciences, a new student recreation and fitness center, and a pedestrian oriented green campus. The completed Laboratory Science Commons established a new science quadrangle with campus green space, relocating a 750+ vehicle parking lot to the campus perimeter. The Marc L. Burnett Student Recreation & Fitness Center created a "front door" to the campus along the North Willow Avenue. Street improvements are underway to reduce the vehicular traffic through the core of the campus and enhance pedestrian pathways and greenspace. Current projects include the multi-disciplinary Ashraf Islam Engineering Building under construction, serving every engineering program, and the JJ Oakley Innovation Center and Residence Hall, now in design, which will provide collaborative entrepreneurial opportunities and housing for 400 students. These projects mark the completion of the primary goals of the 2014 Master Plan.

The new 2022 Master Plan continues the focus of the previous Master Plan to provide a technologically advanced education serving students primarily from the rural Upper Cumberland Region and the State. The vision presented addresses significant current space deficiencies and accommodates enrollment headcount milestones of 12,000 and 15,000 students. The top priorities for the 12,000 student plan continue to advance the engineering and science plans with two additional engineering buildings and two science buildings (biology and physics) as well as multiple additions to accommodate smaller space needs. Due to the advanced age of many other campus buildings, the Master Plan also recommends nine capital renovations to address the physical condition and programmatic needs of the larger existing academic buildings, including Johnson, Crawford, Brown, Prescott, Memorial Gym, Pennebaker, Clement, the Academic Wellness Center, and Bryan

Fine Arts. The plan also includes demolition of five buildings with an average age of 82 years and average facility score of 52.

Following the completion of currently funded projects, the current space deficiency is reduced from 119,000 net square feet to 81,000 net square feet. The 2022 Master Plan initially addresses space deficiencies for current enrollment levels and improves the quality of spaces for classrooms and labs campus wide. In total, projects envisioned and completed for the 12,000-headcount student enrollment level will result in four new buildings, three building expansions, and nine building renovations.

RECOMMEDATION

The 2022 Master Plan Update is a comprehensive 10-year plan, with analysis of space needs, building development and placements, infrastructure, parking, and student housing. THEC staff recommends this Master Plan for approval.