The following items were discussed at the Spring Community Forum on April 14, 2011.

THE ALTERNATIVE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Presented by students from the Honors College Think Tank

As a porous community within a larger metropolitan region, the University is an urban settlement of approximately 46,000 people during its peak hours. This makes it about the same size as Draper, Bountiful or Murray, Utah, and almost twice as large as Cedar City.

Honors students presented an overview of their project to develop an Alternative Campus Master Plan. The students include Brynne Parry, Whitney Mortensen, Sabah U-Hassan, Jamie Rankin, Andrew Blatter, Jean Paul (JP) Santos, and Zachary Burt. Professors include Myron Willson (Office of Sustainability), Stephen Goldsmith (city and metropolitan planning), and Bruce Gillas (space planning). Think Tanks are comprised of honors students from diverse disciplines and backgrounds who form an interdisciplinary team and work together on a year-long project.

The goal of this think tank is to identify ways to build a stronger sense of community on campus; of livability through diversity; and to take an integrated approach to planning. After conducting a survey of students who were asked to identify the opportunities they see for campus—which resulted in 300 responses —Think Tank students used the information to formulate an alternative master plan. Following are some of their ideas.

Community integration: What our town has to offer

The University neighborhood businesses located along 1300 East and 200 South could be integrated into campus in a variety of ways. Mixed-use developments could be established such as a small-scale grocery store, relocating the University Bookstore to 1300 East (with a general book section to appeal to the community), and encouraging more locally-owned establishments. Widening the sidewalks on 200 South would encourage more pedestrian traffic. The University’s role could include fundraising—perhaps partnering with entities such as the Utah Micro-enterprise Loan Fund.

Parking and mobility

An intra-campus transit system, using eco-friendly trams, would provide a connection within campus and create a greater sense of community. An east/west line could connect the dorms with Marriott Library; and a north/south line could connect the Business Loop with the Olpin Union Building. Bike paths could be expanded and enhanced within campus.

Some parking lots could be replaced with green space and/or buildings, and parking lots could be consolidated. Consider an above-ground and an underground parking structure. Plan for the location of the parking lots that makes the most sense in terms of where people need to go on campus. Include diversity in the parking design by integrating art, landscaping, and sustainable elements such as solar panels. Make parking lots more pedestrian friendly and create more short-term parking. Allow for more flexible parking pass options for students, such as paying for just the days they are on campus rather than every day. If classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, pay for just those days. Shuttle-stops could include design elements that reflect their specific location on campus. For example, in front of the music building, the shuttle stop could include designs of musical instruments, or a video showing classes or performances that go on inside Gardner Hall.

The University of Utah neighborhood businesses located along 1300 East and 200 South could be integrated into campus in a variety of ways. Mixed-use developments could be established such as a small-scale grocery store, relocating the University Bookstore to 1300 East (with a general book section to appeal to the community), and encouraging more locally-owned establishments. Widening the sidewalks on 200 South would encourage more pedestrian traffic. The University’s role could include fundraising—perhaps partnering with entities such as the Utah Micro-enterprise Loan Fund.

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Re-imagine housing

Mixed-use housing allows for living needs to be met without using automobiles; provides areas for collaboration and diverse activities; actualizes potential in housing through proximity to

http://unews.utah.edu/?action=neighbors

For more information or to be added to or deleted from our mailing list, call 801-585-8244.
Food
Eat well. Learn well. Live well.
Integrating mobile food vendors on campus would create loyal followers, provide a temporary social gathering place, and give people a reason to venture out of their own campus neighborhood. Food trucks known for delicious and reasonably priced food could come to a different area of campus each day of the week. One campus hosts a food truck known for its Korean BBQ and Mexican food. Another makes fresh ice cream every day and offers a mic for impromptu karaoke. Both use Twitter and Facebook to let everyone know where they’ll be on campus and what the day’s menu includes.

The hours of operation of Mom’s Cafe in the Marriott Library need to better match the library’s hours. Currently, the cafe closes four hours before the library so students who are studying and want coffee or something to eat have to leave the library—and the campus—to find food.

Art on campus
There is a lack of outdoor art on our campus. Other schools have dramatic sculptures which bring an element of creativity to campus. Outdoor art creates a sense of community, a place for relaxation and deeper thought. It initiates creativity and enhances the campus culture. Design excellence needs a place for relaxation and deeper thought. It initiates creativity and gives people a reason to venture out of their own campus neighborhood. Food trucks known for delicious and reasonably priced food could come to a different area of campus each day of the week.

MELDRUM HOUSE RENOVATION
Chris Lino, Manager, Pioneer Theatre Company
NOTE: The Community Forum on Thursday, July 14 will include a tour of the Meldrum House.
The $3.2 million renovation of the Meldrum (formerly University) House building located on the southeast corner of 1300 East and 200 South is on budget and ahead of schedule. Recently purchased by Pioneer Theatre Company (PTC), the building is being renovated by PTC and its partner, Cowboy Partners. PTC owns the upper floors and is renovating the space into 21 apartments to house its visiting guest artists. Each apartment includes a full-size refrigerator, microwave, and dishwasher in a galley kitchen. Custom designed furniture will arrive this month. The old staircase has been replaced with a new one made of hard oak and walnut-veneer that is consistent with the period of the building. Cowboy Partners will maintain the street level retail space, which will feature La Frontera Restaurant, scheduled to open July 1. PTC’s portion of the project—the renovation of the second, third, and fourth floors—will cost $2.5 million, all raised from private donations, with a lead gift of $1.2 million from long-time theater patrons Peter and Catherine Meldrum.

“From the top floor, the views from every apartment are spectacular,” says Chris Lino. “The actors will think they’ve died and gone to heaven!” The top floor also offers views of campus, including Simmons Pioneer Memorial Theatre, where most of the visiting actors will be performing. The neighboring businesses are pleased because the new use of the building will bring them some additional paying customers. Cowboy Partners will encourage the restaurant to stay open late to attract theater patrons and actors after the shows.

Closing thoughts
Rediscovers campus as a living lab for learning. Every surface of this campus has the possibility to be an experiment—an interdisciplinary collaboration. Enhance ingenuity by increasing accidental encounters. Create nodes of activity and encourages non-students to take part in university life through diverse housing types.

HELEN LEVITT PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE SMITHSON EFFECT
Jill Dawsey, Curator, Utah Museum of Fine Arts
Jill Dawsey presented information on two exhibitions which recently concluded at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. Both had Utah connections. Helen Levitt Photographs was a captivating collection of mostly black and white photos of New York City street scenes. Levitt’s brother Bill was long-time mayor of Alta, Utah. Helen is considered one of the great photographers of the twentieth century. The exhibition most fully included works from the late 1930s and early 1940s.
The Smithson Effect—a collection of work by 20 different artists on the theme of Robert Smithson’s land art in the northern end of the Great Salt Lake titled The Spiral Jetty—was the most ambitious contemporary art exhibition ever organized by the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. Through sculpture, video, photography, installation, and sound art, The Smithson Effect included works by 23 leading contemporary artists who were influenced by the legacy of Smithson.

LORRIS BETZ NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE U OF U
Former University of Utah President Michael K. Young has moved to Seattle to take the reins at the University of Washington. Young was the 14th president of the University of Utah and led the school from 2004 to May of this year. On May 16, Lorris Betz began her second term as interim president of the U. Betz came to the University in June 1999 when he was named senior vice president for health sciences, dean of the School of Medicine, and chief executive officer of the University of Utah Health Care. She holds faculty appointments in the departments of pediatrics (professor with tenure), neurobiology and anatomy (adjunct professor), and physiology (adjunct professor). Betz previously served as interim president of the University of Utah from Jan. 1 to Aug. 1, 2004, between the tenures of Bernie Machen and Michael Young.

Betz received his undergraduate degree in chemistry, and his graduate degrees in biochemistry and physiology from the University of Wisconsin. He completed his pediatric residency and a research fellowship in pediatric neurology at the University of California, San Francisco. He then joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in the departments of pediatrics and neurology, and was appointed associate dean for academic affairs, senior associate dean for academic affairs, executive associate dean, and interim dean.