

Built Environment & Infrastructure Advisory Council



MEMBERS

- Elizabeth Hinde – Co-Chair (School of Education)
- Tina Wells – Co-Chair (Facilities)
- Michael Hart (IT)
- Linda Lang-Peralta (LAS)
- Phillip Mann (LAS - Art)
- Katrina McLaughlin (CPS – Engineering)
- Carl Meese (AHEC)
- Louis Morphew (Campus Recreation)
- Rebecca Nemec (CPS – Nursing)
- Charline Nguyen (Student)
- Jerrid Oates (Athletics)
- Greg Sullivan (ACCESS Center)
- Metza Templeton (Classified Staff)
- Jacob Welch (LAS – Theater)

CHARGE

1. Utilizing the **academic priorities** of the University to **guide** physical space and infrastructural **recommendations**.
2. Ensuring that the physical campuses and infrastructures **align with the values** of the institution.
3. Navigating the **complex relationships of the three institutions and AHEC** on the property of the Main campus, while advancing our priorities and objectives as a model urban university.
4. Determining the need to **renovate or repurpose spaces** in order to advance the academic priorities and mission of the University.
 1. **Prioritizing** these needs in accordance with the Core Values of the institution, urgency of changes needed, state and federal regulations, and defined identity of the university.
5. Determining the need for **new buildings (either new builds or rented space)** to support the evolving direction of the University.
6. Assessing **funding sources** for building, renting, renovating, operating, and maintaining buildings.

Information Gathering

- Survey
- Two Open Forums/Information meetings
- Many informal meetings and conversations.

Overall Message

Everyone (faculty, staff, students) care deeply about MSU Denver, and would like to point to a campus that reflects their pride in the university.

Facts, Figures, and Findings

- There is total campus built square footage of 4,533,886
 - MSU Denver uses 49.3%
 - UCD uses 35.0%
 - CCD uses 15.7%
- MSU Denver occupies 47% of classrooms on Auraria campus.
- MSU Denver students represent 45% of all students on Auraria campus.
- 43% of MSU Denver classes are held in West, Central, Plaza, Arts, and PE Center.
- Only 11% of MSU Denver classes are held in MSU Denver owned buildings.

More Facts, Figures, and Findings

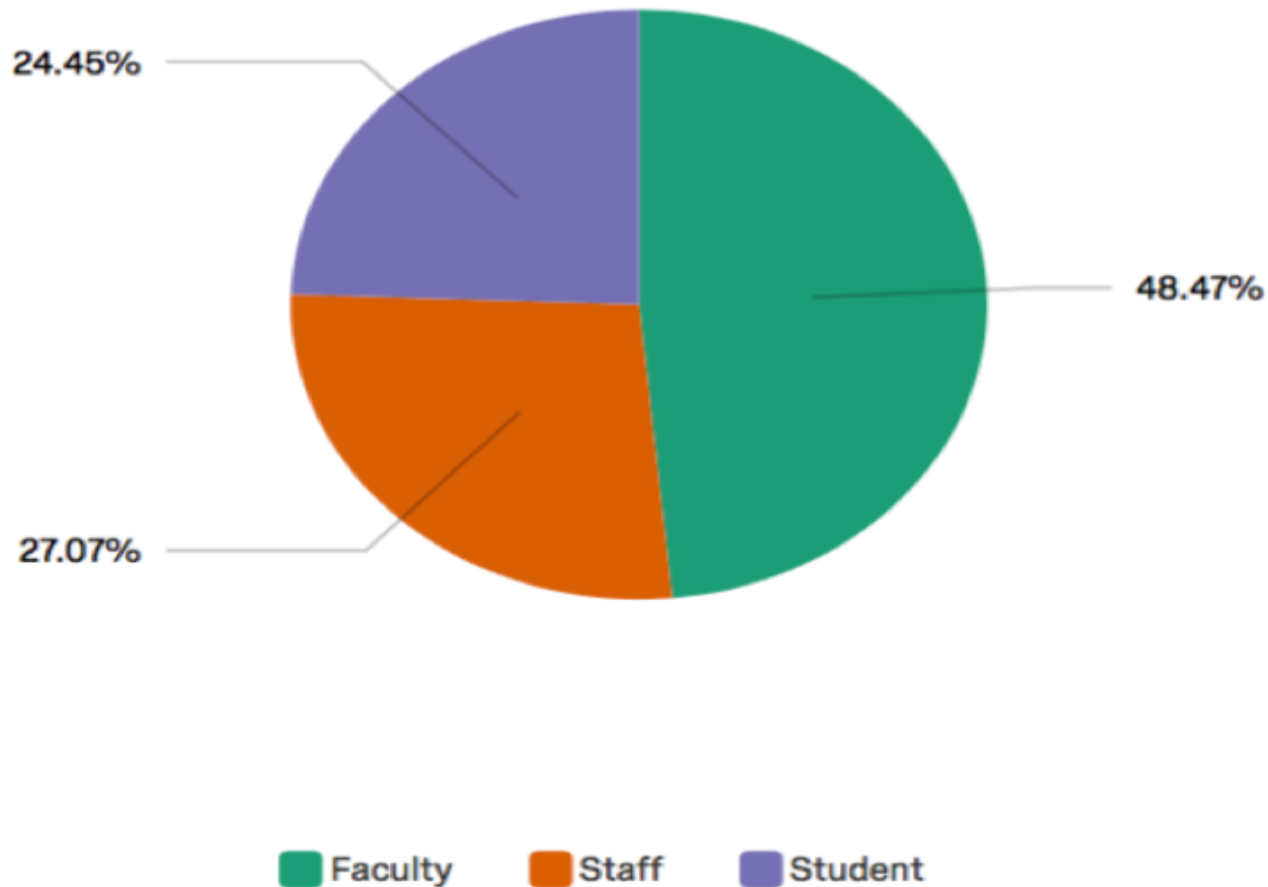
- Misunderstanding of **AHEC's roles** and responsibility throughout University
 - Leads to feelings of animosity and blame
- Concerns of **accessibility and inclusivity** throughout campus, including new buildings, emerged almost immediately.

SURVEY

QUESTIONS:

1. What physical or environmental features have you seen at other institutions or campuses that you would like to see at this campus?
2. What physical aspects of the campus or University do you want to preserve?
3. What physical or environmental aspects of the campus would you like to see changed?
4. What opportunities should MSU Denver take advantage of to improve the physical campus?
5. The core values of MSU Denver are Community, Access, Diversity, Respect and Entrepreneurship. What about the environment of the Auraria campus should or could advance these values?

SURVEY RESULTS



N = 229; Faculty – 111; Staff – 62; Student – 56
Most respondents were from Main Campus (221 – 98.66%)
South Campus respondents (3 – 1.34%)

SURVEY RESULTS

(See Hand-Out)

Major Identified Themes per Question

Q1. Features of other campuses that you would like to see here.

- **Improved and increased spaces in instructional buildings, such as classrooms, labs, elevators, and restrooms.**
- **More improved outdoor/communal spaces.**

Q2. Physical Aspects that you want to preserve.

- **Historic aspects of the campus (i.e., Tivoli, 9th Street, St. Cajetan's)**
- **Outdoor spaces/Greenery**

Q3. Physical Aspects you would like to see changed.

- **Outdated buildings and classrooms (West, Central, Boulder, Plaza, PE, Modulars, King)**
- **Outdoor spaces/landscaping/communal areas**
- **Crowded areas**

SURVEY RESULTS

(See Hand-Out)

Major Identified Themes per Question

Q4. Opportunities to improve physical spaces

- **Not sure**
- **Campus beautification and branding of MSU Denver**
- **Modifications to current structures/classrooms**

Q5. Core Values

- **Community Spaces**
- **Accessibility in classrooms/buildings**

Changes Already Happening

- Understanding of existing conditions in Shared Buildings
 - Entire University **space audits** and building inventories conducted in May for most Shared Buildings
 - Attendees included MSUD Facilities, IT, Registrar, Access Center and AHEC Campus Planner
- Plans for **Capital Renewal funding request** to State
 - A cohesive plan backed by all four institutions (AHEC, UCD, CCD & MSUD).
 - Funding requests allows Campus to invest in its existing assets and address the backlog of deferred maintenance
 - Building systems such as electrical, HVAC, plumbing, roofing, etc.
 - If funded, systems improvements would enable energy savings. Realized saved funds will be reinvested into annual capital renewal funds enabling the Campus to be self sufficient.

Recommendations

- Create University **academic strategic plan**
 - Charge a subcommittee to work inclusively with each University Department and Leadership to create an action plan to develop an academic strategic plan over the next year.
 - Academic strategic plan would outline short, mid, and long term goals and tie to University Strategic Plan
 - Highlighting which programs are targeted for growth over the short, mid, and long term
- Development of Academic Strategic Plan would enable **Built Environment Master Plan** to be updated to provide short, mid, and long term direction and provide University with Strategic planning

Recommendations Continued

- MSUD Facilities Department use space audits to create **long term and short term** goals
 - Develop an interior space improvements action plan and funding model for **Shared Buildings**
 - Interior space improvements plan would include paint, flooring, furniture, fixtures, etc.
 - Short term goal would focus on **learning spaces** in Shared Buildings.
- Define **inclusive learning environments** for MSU Denver; it's not just about ADA compliance.
 - Currently only address minimal code requirements. We do not create inclusive environments
 - Accessibility experts should be involved in plans for new buildings or redesigns, such as Access Center

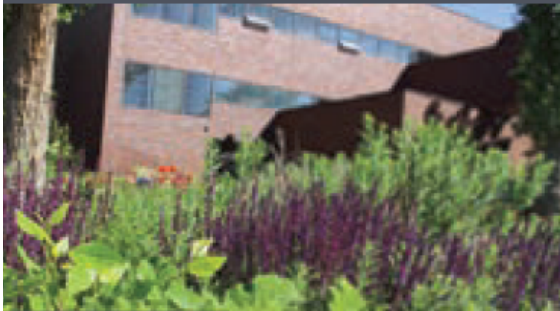
Recommendations Continued

- **Educate** MSUD Community (faculty, staff and students) about AHEC
 - Early Bird publications
 - Open forums
 - Distribute Myth Buster/Fact Sheets

Future Council Work

- Understanding impact of accreditation on space currently and determine any future concerns as programs grow
- Audit and Dive into South Campus
 - Understand current use and determine future possibilities
- Greater examination of open spaces on campus
 - Conduct workshops with entire Campus and AHEC Planning Department
 - Investigate opportunities for open communal spaces, public art, shade structures, etc.
- Continue data gathering about use of space overall
 - Create a survey/comments drop box on MSU Denver Facilities

What is AHEC? Myths vs. Facts



COMMUNITY
COLLEGE OF
DENVER



METROPOLITAN
STATE UNIVERSITY™
OF DENVER



University of Colorado
Denver



AURARIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

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Myth: AHEC is the landlord and makes all rules/regulations about the campus

Fact: AHEC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of 11 members:

- Two CCD representatives (President & System Board Member)
- Two MSU Denver representatives (President & Board of Trustees Member)
- Two CU Denver representatives (Chancellor & Regent)
- One Faculty Member (institutional representation changes yearly)
- One Student Member (institutional representation changes yearly)
- Three Governor of Colorado appointees
- There is no AHEC vote on the Auraria Board of Directors

Myth: AHEC makes decisions about academic programs

Fact: The governing board of each constituent institution establishes, maintains, and conducts the academic programming for its own institution.

- The AHEC Board has the primary responsibility to:
 - Plan, construct, own, lease, operate, maintain, and manage facilities, buildings, and grounds of the Auraria Campus.
 - Provide auxiliary services for the campus, including parking, daycare, the Tivoli Student Union, food services, student services, conference space, and campus police and security services.

Myth: AHEC decides which improvement projects get funded

Fact: The three institutions approve project prioritization and set the amount of money to spend on improvements each year

- Recently the three institutions made it an immediate funding priority to reinforce several popular event spaces to ensure the safety of the campus community. AHEC responded by purchasing and installing several new planters, benches, bollards and decorative boulders in strategic places at 9th Street Park and the Tivoli Quad.

Myth: AHEC charges unnecessarily for parking

Fact: The revenue collected from parking is used to directly offset the cost to the institutions for operating the campus.

- Parking rates on campus are generally only 50-75% of market rates in Denver.
- AHEC's annual budget is balanced, total expenditures are within 1% or less of total revenues.

Myth: AHEC employees receive special pay and benefits

Fact: AHEC is a State Agency and its employees are held to the same regulations as the employees of the three institutions.

- AHEC and MSU Denver are part of CHEIBA, the Colorado Higher Education Insurance Benefits Alliance

Myth: AHEC doesn't care

Fact: AHEC works closely with the institutions and appreciates feedback, we want to hear what you think

- There are many ways to make your campus a better place
 - Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (SACAB)
 - Auraria Sustainable Campus Program (SCP)
 - Student Government
 - Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (FACAB)
 - Complete satisfaction surveys for events or services
 - Contact Me: carlmeese@ahec.edu