

VP says Master Plan offers good strategic guidelines

By Paul Becker

In response to Ian Innis's Viewpoint in the Sept. 19, 2003 On Campus News:

The Campus Master Planning Process was very carefully designed and well managed and utilised a well-known Canadian campus planning consultant.

The three year process involved hundreds of people from on and off campus and many presentations, public open-houses and workshops. All comments, suggestions, inputs, criticisms and viewpoints were tremendous and all were incorporated or referenced in the plan in an appropriate manner.

The process clearly identified that the CAMP@US was not, and is not, and never will be a static and definitive map of how the campus will look in 50 to 100 years. Rather, it is a foundation of guiding principles and guidelines used to focus the local area planning and sub plans as the strategic directions and integrated plans of the university are supported, enabled and protected by the stewardship mandate and vision in the Master Plan.

Parking, transportation, traffic, wayfinding, lighting, safer campus, landscaping, bicycles, pedestrian and public spaces sub plans will now proceed in a strategic manner integrated with other minor and major and teaching and research development initiatives.

I can appreciate that people looking in from the outside would not necessarily see or appreciate the new paradigm of planning and architectural strategy, process or reality.

Our (FMD's) role is to "listen, learn, help and lead" a constructive process of dialogue and input into the enhancement, for decades and generations to come, of our amazing campus. The sole purpose of our world-class team of engineers, architects, planners, trades persons, custodians, accountants, support staff and any outside expertise we retain is the stewardship of the physical, financial and human resources under our care.

Implying that we are either irresponsible or incapable of fulfilling this critical role, and are purposefully damaging the sense of space and place of our fine campus, is entirely incorrect.

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