3.0 Urban Design Element

PURPOSE

The purpose of this element is to develop an understanding of the overall physical form of the development within the University and its relationship to the surrounding community, and based on this understanding, provide conceptual principles for the organization of future development on the campus.

(1) DATA REQUIREMENTS. This element shall be based, at a minimum, on the following data and/or information:

a) A description of the spatial form of existing development on the campus and in the context area. This description shall consist of one or more diagrammatic analysis maps and companion narrative describing the following:

1. Campus open spaces character—a qualitative description of the existing spatial organization, enclosure, activity, and symbolic associations.

A study of the urban design characteristics of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) campus presents a variety of spatial configurations, open space treatments and activity levels. These characteristics are identified in Figures 3.1A-C: Urban Design Configuration Map, located at the end of this element. Areas such as the Quadrangle/Campus Commons, the Eternal Flame, The Set, the Campanile Clock Tower, and the Coleman Library Plaza, all within the traditional campus core, are exemplary examples of campus design elements, possessing a strong sense of definition and order. Branch campus locations were also included in the map series.

Historically, the majority of the other spaces on campus are fragmented and disjointed from the campus core. With the exception of the Library and Student Services areas of the campus core, the campus reads principally as a collection of buildings rather than as a planned ordering of spaces, axis or building masses. The Quadrangle and The Set, each located within the confines of the traditional FAMU campus, are examples of ordered spaces with a continuity of design associations. A consistency in form, pattern, materials and color connect architectural and landscape architectural elements together to form a strong overall fabric.

The Eternal Flame terminates a strong pedestrian axis between Coleman Library and Lee Hall (see Photograph 3.1). This granite obelisk-shaped monument commemorates FAMU’s selection as Time magazine’s 1997-1998 College of the Year. These exceptional exterior spaces are enclosed with predominantly brick buildings that are unified by their repetition of design form, color and materials. Repetition of its brick and concrete pavements, walls and benches and a consistent palette of site furnishings reinforce the overall continuity of design.
The Campanile Clock Tower Plaza and the Coleman Library Plaza are in close proximity to The Quadrangle and The Set (see Photographs 3.2 and 3.3). These small courtyards are two excellent examples of niche spaces that have been planned and built within the campus core. The area behind Coleman Library, with its brick and metallic gate and dominant metallic sculpture, provides a symbolic back entrance to the campus core. The Clock Tower offers a visual landmark in the heart of the campus.
An expansive undeveloped open space situated between the campus core and the recreational facilities along Wahnish Way has the potential for passive uses. This open space is organized around the track and a large retention pond. The broad, linear open space centrally anchored by the retention pond has further potential for development as a greenway for unstructured recreation and contemplation (see Photograph 3.4).

Seating and picnic facilities could be introduced along this linear open space as well as enhanced pedestrian routes to further define pedestrian circulation and lessen vehicular and pedestrian conflict. By doing so and relocating the track to a more appropriate athletic quadrant, a grandiose, formalized central green space is created where future campus development can surround.

Photograph 3.4: Passive Recreation Area

Additional unstructured open spaces, adjacent to the campus core, occur north of The Quadrangle by the Carnegie Center, and east of The Set near the women’s residences. Each of these substantial open lawns, occasionally shaded by mature oak trees, offer spectacular views to downtown Tallahassee. Another unstructured open space popular with the students is just south of the School of Architecture. It too is shaded by mature oaks and offers a place of solace and seclusion outside the campus core. The majority of the remaining open space on campus consists of athletic fields, agricultural property and other conservation land.
2. Campus visual structure—a qualitative identification of existing visual landmarks, edge conditions, entrances, building location and orientation, mass and scale, landscape character, ground level functional character, etc.

Visual structure on campus includes visual landmarks, notable buildings, exceptional exterior spaces, significant landscape features and unique site conditions. The most prominent visual landmark on campus is the Campanile Clock Tower (see Photograph 3.5). The brick Clock Tower rising above its adjacent buildings is a beacon for the heart of the campus and offers a sense of identity and place.

Another visual landmark is Carnegie Library--Black Archives Building. It is the most notable historically significant landmark on campus. This two (2)-story painted brick structure sits in a prominent position on the academic core Quadrangle.

The topography of the FAMU property includes several of the highest points in Tallahassee which in turn provide vistas to the Tallahassee skyline and surrounding areas. One such vista can be obtained at the SBI – East Wing (See photograph 3.6). Other areas that provide the best views occur at the quadrangle of the women’s dormitories and from the intersection of Wahnnish Way and Gamble Street.
Another notable building on campus is the Foote-Hilyer Administration Building (see Photograph 3.7) at the intersection of Adams Street and Palmer Avenue. This facility is an adaptive reuse of a six (6)-story hospital building. It is one of the largest single structures on campus. Though this is one of the most recognized buildings to the community, the arrival to the building is awkward and unattractive.
The exceptional exterior spaces at FAMU are primarily located within the traditional campus core. The Student Union has also been established as a reference landmark. Exemplary exterior spaces associated with the Student Union, The Commons and Coleman Library include The Quadrangle, the Eternal Flame, The Set, the Campanile Clock Tower, and the Coleman Library Plaza.

Located on its present site since 1891, the campus has taken on a variety of visual architectural characteristics through the years. The architectural edges of the campus core are articulated by multi-story brick buildings. The design character of these buildings varies due to the time frame in which each was erected. Though there are numerous factors that contribute to an overall disharmony of design style, there are some unifying elements between the buildings on campus. Almost all structures are two to three stories constructed of red or brown brick. Older buildings such as Lee Hall, Jackson Davis Hall, and the women's dormitories' tout pitched roofs, slate shingles and detailed brickwork giving them a stately appearance. Coleman Library and Carnegie Center each have a front entry colonnade and symmetrical front elevation (see Photograph 3.8).

Photograph 3.8: Carnegie Center
Later structures such as the Benjamin Banneker Complex, Gore Education Building, Gaither Gymnasium and the Foster-Tanner Arts Complex, repeat many of the same construction materials but their flat roofs, limited windows and modular elevations present a much less stately and collegiate appearance (see Photograph 3.9). The School of Architecture and the Dyson Pharmacy Building appear to have been deliberately designed to compete with nearby architecture. In recent campus additions at the Recreation Center, Multi-Purpose Teaching Gymnasium, and the College of Pharmacy, architecture has begun to move away from the collegiate appearance and taken on unique identities of their own (see Photograph 3.10).
Many campus buildings are entered from different levels due to their siting on the sloping topography. Older buildings were appropriately set back from streets but many of the newer buildings are slightly out of proportion with the street level scale. [See Architectural Design Guidelines Element for more detailed comments on these and other specific buildings.]

One of the more visually unattractive areas on campus is Polkinghorne Village Apartments, the married student housing complex. The aging one (1)- and two (2)-story flats on the western edge of campus are slated to be demolished and replaced with an 800-bed, co-ed apartment style housing facility similar to the arrangement at Palmetto.

FAMU should continue to focus on entrance image improvements to the host community. The addition of perimeter entrance features is a vital part of the campus identity. Some improvements relative to campus identification and edge treatments have been initiated with entrance signage installed at primary campus entrance points at the intersections of FAMU Way and Wahnish Way (see Photograph 3.11) and Palmer Street and South Adams.

Photograph 3.11: Entry Signage at corner of FAMU and Wahnish Way
Other streetscape elements include an arbor edge of planted crepe myrtles along Wahnish Way and street trees and pedestrian lighting at the new Teaching Gym. FAMU desires to repeat the use of crepe myrtles along Adams Street and Orange Avenue. The new D.R.S. complex at the southern end of campus provides a definite edge; however, there is no distinctive edge condition or identifiable entrance feature. Entrance image improvements could be developed at the corner of Wahnish Way and Orange Street in association with the new D.R.S. A planned round-a-bout, considered for the intersection of FAMU Way and Wahnish Way as part of the FAMU Way extension and Gaines Street Redevelopment District, might include special amenities and signage that signify the arrival to the FAMU campus. The northeast corner of the campus will be another important campus entry point that shall be accentuated by city of Tallahassee lead sidewalk and streetscape improvements on Palmer Avenue.

The architectural edges and FAMU property boundaries create an alternating system of open and closed spaces throughout the campus. The open spaces can be divided into three categories: pedestrian open spaces, passive recreation and active recreation. The challenge of the master plan will be to provide order and some continuity to this developing system of spaces. (See Recreation and Open Space Element for detailed information.) The majority of open areas on the FAMU campus can be classified as non-programmed pedestrian open spaces. These spaces include courtyards, quads, commons and linear linkages.

Courtyards are prominent design features that accentuate the importance of outdoor spaces. They recognize the significance of exterior spaces to foster well being, learning and the enjoyment of its users. There are currently few successful courtyards on the FAMU campus. The most auspicious courtyards on the FAMU campus, The Set and the Coleman Library plaza, serve as examples of how the continuity of design associations within courtyards can be a unifying element for diverse campus architecture. Courtyards can be an ideal place to feature prominent sculpture and art to accentuate urban spaces and building entrances (see Photographs 3.12 and 3.13).
Photograph 3.12: Coleman Library Plaza

Photograph 3.13: Mural at the Rattler's Den
Quads are primarily enclosed areas defined by the buildings that surround them. These areas can be developed to serve as a foreground lawn for buildings, as entrances, or near or among courtyards for informal student gatherings. An example of a quad on FAMU is the large lawn north of the women's residences. This open space is primarily enclosed by buildings on three edges and bordered by mature oaks on the remaining side. The quad associated with the women student dormitory area is generally underutilized, and has no planned amenities that contribute to the successful fulfillment of quad functions. The spatial organization of four women residence halls had great potential for a successful structured common. Unfortunately the alignment of the incongruent, monolithic white William Gray Jr. Plaza interrupts the enclosed space and offers virtually no site amenities (see Photograph 3.14).

Photograph 3.14: Austere, William Gray Jr. Plaza

Commons are physically similar to quads in that they are open areas with defined boundaries. The function of the "commons" is more structured than a "quad" in that the area is intended to be more public, attracting larger groups of people for extracurricular activities and social interaction, helping balance the required intellectual endeavors of the University environment. The Quadrangle, as previously described, is an example of a common.

Linear linkages refer to perimeter buffer areas and pedestrian circulation paths. The design of these areas responds to their function but they should provide visual interest for those traveling along them. Aside from The Quadrangle/Campus Commons and The Set there is no strong axial
pedestrian linkage. There is currently no defined major east-west pedestrian access on the FAMU campus.

There are a number of pedestrian and vehicular conflicts along Wahnish Way, Gamble Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, and Osceola Street. Some of these conflicts will be eliminated with potential street closures (see Photograph 3.15). Additional information can be found in the Transportation Element 11.

Photograph 3.15: Pedestrian Crossing

The existing natural landscape on the FAMU property consists of large independent southern live oaks scattered throughout the campus and loosely defined open turf areas. Planted areas generally consist of occasional foundation plantings and special accent areas. Planted areas near dormitories, recreational facilities and some support facilities are characterized by sparse plantings of hardy species. Exemplary plantings, such as those at the Plant Operations and Facilities Planning, offer beauty, shade and compliments building architecture and landscape architectural elements. Street tree plantings and landscape treatments for parking lots, pedestrian linkage and campus perimeters are all sorely lacking.

Continued use of landscape and hardscape features should be incorporated into all new construction to further enhance the campus aesthetic. This will require new construction to program areas beyond merely the building envelope to include the broadest possible context, unifying, linking and enhancing adjacent spaces.
b) An inventory of existing building service areas, service entrances, trash collection points, etc.

As identified in Figures 3.2A-E (which includes branch campus locations) : Building Service Areas Map, located at the end of this element write-up, loading docks, dumpsters and service areas and entrances are distributed throughout the FAMU campus. At this time, the trash collection points and service facilities available seem to provide an adequate level of service for the present campus size and enrollment. The following deficiencies have been noted as areas for potential improvement in areas of service.

- Dumpsters scattered throughout the campus are located solely by function while sacrificing the overall aesthetics of the campus (see Photographs 3.16 and 3.17). Examples of such trash collection areas are beside Gibbs Hall and Paddyfoote Housing Complex both of which are located along primary pedestrian access routes and in highly visible areas on campus. The existing dumpster and enclosure at Paddyfoote is sited directly along Wahnish Way and protrudes into the sidewalk, creating a disruption in the pedestrian traffic flow. The exposed dumpster at Gibbs Hall directly faces the pedestrian area at the northeast building entrance. Similar dumpster placement exists throughout campus and locations should be carefully planned and not be leftover areas or afterthoughts.

- Enclosures for existing dumpsters are often not being utilized. Refuse and even the dumpsters themselves are frequently set beside the enclosures. Such is the case between the School of Journalism and the Library as well as on the south side of campus in the South Palmetto Commons. All dumpsters should be hidden from public view whenever possible. Setting standards and making pick-ups comply would solve this problem.

- Consideration should be given to modify the locations for some of the unscreened dumpsters. Efforts should be made to limit the visibility of service areas and dumpsters through proper placement away from pedestrian circulation and visual screening techniques (see Photograph 3.18). A good example of appropriate screening is the service court behind the Student Services Center in which all service activities take place within an architectural enclosure and outside of primary pedestrian areas.

- Wherever feasible, separate pedestrian, passenger vehicle and service vehicle circulation. Service vehicles should be given the lowest priority in campus circulation.
Photograph 3.16: Improper Siting, Unsightly / Unscreened Dumpsters along Wahnish Way

Photograph 3.17: Improper Siting, Unsightly / Unscreened Dumpsters at Gibbs Hall
c) An identification of existing high activity buildings and spaces.

The majority of high activity buildings and spaces occur in the traditional campus core. High activity buildings include The Library, Lee Hall, University Commons, Science Research Facility, School of Business and Industry, Foote-Hilyer Administration Center, Gaither Gymnasium and Student Services Center. Currently, the primary high activity area on campus is in the center of the academic core. A secondary high activity area occurs within the athletic uses on campus. The concentration of activities in the campus core will decentralize as FAMU further develops a science and health core and a journalism core on campus with associated support facilities.

The following list indicates open spaces and athletic facilities on the FAMU campus that are highly utilized by the campus population as identified on Figures 3.1A-D: Urban Design Configuration, located at the end of this element write-up.

1. The Quadrangle is a redeveloped plaza area bordered by the Student Services Building, the Library, the Black Archives Building and Lee Hall. It is arranged in a formal geometric pattern of criss-crossing concrete walks through a manicured lawn with permanent seating provided around its perimeter. Anchored by focal point fountains, this area is a good example of a University commons. The Quadrangle is successful in blending the historic Black Archives Building (Carnegie Library) and the stately Lee Hall with two newer buildings. These buildings enclose the quad and create a distinctive, formal and prestigious feel.
2. The Set refers to that portion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard directly in front of the Student Services Building. This pedestrian space has traditionally been used by students for informal gathering and used for a social forum. Previous problems with traffic congestion due to the numbers of people utilizing the area were resolved with a street closure program that limits vehicular access to mass transit, security, service and emergency uses. The pedestrian area has been complemented with an attractive system of brick pavers, furniture standards, bus shelters, and a campanile. The Set serves as an excellent example of designing a space to meet the functions defined by the intended user group.

3. Coleman Library Plaza with its brick entry gates and dominant metallic sculpture is an exemplary transformation of a small, remote space into a quiet, reflective garden (see Photograph 3.19).

Photograph 3.19: Coleman Library Plaza
4. The Patch is located on Osceola Street immediately south of the Small Animal laboratory (see Photograph 3.20). This grassed field serves as the practice area for the FAMU marching band.

![Photograph 3.20: The Patch](image)

5. Gaither Gymnasium Complex is located on Wahnish Way at the center of the developed area of campus. This area is anchored by Gaither Gymnasium and includes athletic facilities for basketball, volleyball, swimming, tennis, track, soccer, softball and flag football.

This area is currently heavily utilized by organized sports programs but will need to be expanded and renovated to make it attractive for incidental recreation. An improved passive recreational area could be linked with the development of a broad north/south campus greenway transecting the central campus. Bragg Stadium and the Multi-purpose teaching gymnasium are located along the western edge of campus. Other facilities in this area include the athletic field house and practice fields strictly for the intercollegiate program.

d) **An identification of existing functional linkages, i.e., major pedestrian, auto or other linkages.**

With its irregular boundary woven into the neighborhood, FAMU is an extremely open campus in terms of access and linkage for both pedestrian and vehicular circulation. The following listing represents the major functional linkages on and
off campus as identified in Figures 3.3A and 3.3B: Functional Linkages Map, located at the end of this element write-up.

- The primary vehicular linkages connecting FAMU to downtown and the surrounding areas are the north-south roadways of Wahnish Way, Adams Street, and Monroe Street. The primary north-south vehicular thoroughfare through the campus is Wahnish Way which is the only uninterrupted vehicular corridor running the length of the University property. To direct traffic around the campus perimeter rather than through the campus, a loop road is planned along the western edge of campus. When the campus perimeter road around the northwestern portion of the campus is constructed, Wahnish Way will be closed from Gamble Street to Osceola Street. This perimeter roadway around the northwestern portion of campus will be initiated when land acquisitions are complete.

- The primary east-west vehicular links connecting the FAMU campus to the surrounding area are FAMU Way along the northern edge, Osceola Street through the center of the campus and Orange Avenue along the southern boundary. Palmer Avenue and Gamble Street also serve as major east-west vehicular links although they are not continuous through the campus. To promote the unification of the campus core with the western portion of campus Wahnish Way will be closed as identified above.

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard serves as the major north/south link on campus for both pedestrian and vehicular circulation between downtown and the FAMU campus core. While the boulevard is no longer open to through traffic, it still serves as an orienting device that provides convenient connections to activities within the core.

- Currently there is no defined, direct major pedestrian link oriented east/west. The concrete sidewalks that filter through the area between are sometimes abandoned in preference for the worn paths that better satisfy the pedestrian desire lines (see Photographs 3.21 and 3.22). There are several pedestrian spines that connect The Quad to the Student Services Center and to the recreational and residential uses along Wahnish Way. Due to the spatial arrangement of campus buildings and topography it is not possible to introduce a direct, interior grand pedestrian axis between Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Wahnish Way. Yet, existing pedestrian accesses can be reinforced with special pavements, identified crossings of service areas and extensive tree plantings. These improvements should accommodate and direct pedestrian circulation in an orderly manner and offer a visually attractive corridor. Other pedestrian corridors that need better definition include linkages from perimeter parking lots and in the future parking garages to the campus interiors.
Photograph 3.21:  Worn Pedestrian Path

Photograph 3.22:  Worn Pedestrian Path
• To eliminate pedestrian conflicts with traffic on Wahnish Way, Parking Garage traffic should be redirected west of the Student Services Center in conjunction with the closing of Wahnish Way from Gamble Street to Osceola Street.

• Figure 3.3C depicts the functional linkage issue at the Viticulture Campus location. Generally there is no sidewalk provided from the main building cluster to Mahan Drive (U.S. Highway 90). Pending improvement to Mahan Drive will provide sidewalks and trails adjacent to the Viticulture Campus. A sidewalk connection between the Viticulture Campus and Mahan Drive is recommended.

e) A description of the character of existing buildings and open spaces within the context area adjacent to the University. This description shall include one or more diagrammatic analysis maps and companion narrative describing the visual structure and open space character of the area.

While the context area around the FAMU property is zoned for a variety of land uses, the area draws its character from a predominance of older one-story single-family residences. FAMU considers sensitivity to its neighbors extremely important when contemplating future campus expansion and proposed interaction with the host community.

The following list depicts the existing conditions of the areas immediately surrounding the campus property.

EAST: This edge of campus is comprised primarily of small-scale general and automotive commercial properties between South Adams Street and South Monroe Street. The exception to this condition is a residential area that protrudes into the campus midway along the north-south axis. FAMU purchased a block behind the Science and Research facility for future campus growth.

WEST: The properties to the western side of the campus are zoned for a mix of residential categories including both single and multifamily residential units. This area also contains the Walker Ford Community Center and public recreation area. FAMU plans to purchase property along the western side for a campus loop road and for future development associated with recreation and Bragg Stadium. Acquisition of property adjacent to the proposed campus loop roadway affords opportunities for a “Tent City” and parking for festivals and football related community functions.

SOUTH: The southern portion of University property acts as a buffer area that separates the properties to the south from the campus core, consisting of the FAMU Developmental Research School and intramural fields. Development to the south consists of a United States Post Office and mixed residential.

NORTH: The Northern edge of FAMU property is largely made up of the laboratory school grounds of Lucy Moten Elementary and a day care facility along FAMU Way. To the immediate north of the FAMU property lies a strip of General Industrial properties along
(2) ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS. This element shall provide, at a minimum, the following analyses:

a) An analysis of the evolution of the development pattern of University buildings and open spaces.

FAMU was originally founded in 1887 as the State Normal College for Colored Students. Located at its present site since 1891, the University had no official comprehensive master plans for the campus' development until 1987. Prior to the development of that plan, the FAMU campus had grown through several significant periods of construction and land acquisition that lacked the coordination of an overall plan. Among the most significant events and periods of growth that have shaped the University were the following.

- The University was officially founded in 1887 as the State Normal College for Colored Students with a student enrollment of fifteen. The campus was located at this time on Copeland Street, presently the site of Florida State University.

- In 1891, the campus was relocated to its present site and its name was changed to the State Normal and Industrial College for Colored Students.

- In 1905 management of the school was transferred from the Board of Education to the Board of Control. This event officially designated the school as an institute of higher learning.

- During the years 1924 to 1944, FAMU acquired much of the physical and academic image it has today. Buildings were constructed, more land was purchased, more faculty was hired, courses were upgraded and accreditation was received from several state agencies. By 1944, FAMU had constructed 48 buildings, had accumulated 396 acres of land, and had 812 students and 122 staff members.

- In 1951, the school's name was changed from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes to Florida A&M College. In 1953, by legislative action, the school was renamed Florida A&M University.

- During the years 1950 to 1968, the school experienced its most rapid growth. Twenty-three buildings were erected and the hospital (presently Foote-Hilyer Administration Center) was completed. Also during these years the staff increased by more than 500, the four (4)-quarter plan (now the semester plan) was implemented and the school became the first Negro institution to become a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Enrollment increased to over 3,500.

- The 1970s brought further growth and development to FAMU. In 1971, FAMU was recognized as a full partner in Florida's nine (9) institution public higher education State University System (SUS).
• The 1980s have served as a model for productive development for FAMU. The University had grown to 12 schools and colleges. The past decade also saw the expansion of the Gaither Athletic Center; the construction of a new Women's Athletic Complex, track and Olympic pool; men's and women's weight training rooms; and softball and baseball fields. Bragg Memorial Stadium was renovated and expanded and a modern field house was erected. Construction and renovation projects amounted to more than $34 million.

• Since the previous ten-year Comprehensive Master Plan was completed in 2000, campus expansion of academic facilities included the Ware-Raney Nursing addition, the West Wing of the Business and Industry and the Teleconference Center, College of Pharmacy, School of Journalism, Multi-Purpose Teaching Gymnasium, the Recreation Center, and the New D.R.S. Facility. Facilities recently constructed / renovated include the Intramural Fields, Lawson Multi-purpose Teaching Gymnasium, FAMU Developmental Research School, and the Gore Education Complex. Buildings currently under design and funded for planning include the Polkinghorne 800-bed dormitory and the Pharmacy Building Phase II.

• As previously mentioned, the campus adopted a development master plan for future development in 1987. In 2000 a Ten-Year Comprehensive Master Plan was completed. Since the inception of the master plan, it has been closely adhered to as demonstrated by the following projects:
  - Construction of the new Pharmacy Building.
  - Construction of the School of Journalism.
  - Construction of the new D.R.S. Complex.
  - Construction of the Recreation Center.
  - Construction of the Multi-Purpose Teaching Gymnasium.
  - Ongoing acquisition of land for northwestern perimeter road.

To assure a continuation of the more ordered growth, it is essential that the University extend its broad vision beyond the ten (10)-year planning horizon. Such long-range perspective will allow the development of a ten (10)-year plan which can be responsive to current issues and enable the University to remain flexible in reacting to changing dynamics while adhering to a coherent set of aesthetic and philosophic development guidelines.

b) An identification and assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of alternative spatial configurations by which future development on the campus may be organized. This analysis shall include consideration of methods to improve energy efficiency and alternatives for coordinating the pattern of buildings and spaces along the University/community boundary.

One measure of success in the urban design of FAMU will be the establishment of a clear functional hierarchy of spaces. Currently, the buildings, activities and open spaces on the FAMU campus are disorganized, creating several spines and quadrants that are not distinct. These linkages and open spaces should be treated in a manner that begins to reflect the function and relevant importance of the buildings that enclose them.

The 2000 Master Plan made progress toward establishing this order by creating a central spine from which campus activities surround and clustering like academic
programs and services. Utilizing an existing area traditionally popular for informal student gathering, a series of spaces were created near the Student Services Building and Library that symbolically reinforce the area's functional and social importance. This area should be used as an example of how open spaces adjacent to structures can be manipulated to give them an identity. Similar solutions should be explored for the residential, academic and athletic areas on campus.

- A goal for future growth at FAMU is to develop an education core, a journalism core and a science and health core (STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The education core on campus will be developed within the traditional campus core. The science and health core will be developed at the northeast portion of the campus. The journalism core will be developed at the north portion of campus, along Gamble Street.

- A major component of the hub concept was the re-establishment of the academic core as the focus of the University environment. This beginning of growth of this hub was initiated by the development of The Quadrangle and The Set. Existing buildings in the academic core may be converted from other functions to academic space as new buildings are constructed at campus perimeters.

- Currently Dyson Pharmacy, Ware-Raney and Science Research Facility comprise the core of an arts and science core. The School of Pharmacy is immediately north of the Science Research Facility. Long-range plans are to expand the science and health core in the northeast part of campus.

- In addition to campus expansion organized around the development of specific campus cores, spatial configurations of future campus growth should consider orientation to streets, campus commons and significant open spaces.

- A critical element in the success of the concept of orienting buildings along vehicular roadways and campus open spaces is ensuring that the building's exposures have a consistency of design and visual appearance.

- The siting of future buildings should whenever feasible form campus quads and courtyards.

- It is critical to integrate sustainable design practices into buildings and landscape projects throughout campus. Efforts will continue to be pursued and opportunities for expanded practices evaluated throughout construction projects.

c) An identification and assessment of alternative future activity location and linkage concepts for the campus and the context area.

Through an increased awareness in the importance of an overall master plan, existing campus urban design strengths can be emphasized and weaknesses can be minimized to create a visually and functionally cohesive campus. The implementation of an effective master plan will not be an easy task, given the diverse demands and dynamic nature of FAMU. In addition to the demands typical of college campuses, FAMU presents a unique challenge: the fast paced urban atmosphere of its capital host city is sometimes in conflict with the functions of the University.
FAMU is located in the southwest quadrant of Tallahassee, minutes from downtown, the FAMU campus contrasts by being somewhat open and generous with its spaces. Despite the visual association of the nearby state capitol skyline, the generally rolling topography of the campus manages to separate itself from the urban feeling of its host community. The result of this separation is a campus with a mostly suburban neighborhood feel and an open southern boundary that is rural in character.

While the FAMU campus is nestled within its host community, it does not clearly delineate its boundaries. While it is not the University’s intention to shut out the surrounding community, a definitive boundary is desirable. The normal routine of a University is not compatible with the noise and normal distractions of urban life. An improved boundary would create a sense of enclosure and security for the interior campus. It would also provide visual and functional control over the campus entrances that penetrate the campus. It is important that the University students, staff, and visitors are aware when they are “on-campus.”

One method of softening the hard edge between the collegiate functions of FAMU from the urban environment of its host community is by planning transitional land uses along campus perimeters.

As FAMU is able to coordinate and possibly influence improvements of the adjacent host community, it can minimize conflicts between the campus academic environment and the surrounding urban land uses. One planned project within the proposed campus perimeter roadway, that has the potential to unite FAMU to its host community, is the development of parking and a “tent city” for festivals and football related community functions. Strategic placement of parking lots and parking structures near the perimeters would further emphasize the transition to the pedestrian-oriented collegiate atmosphere of the campus.

Linkage concepts for the host community should define and reinforce campus entry points and perimeters. With the proposed development of the Gaines Street corridor, a defined access at the northeast corner of the campus will be important. A possible round-a-bout with an entrance amenity at the intersection of Wahnish Way and Canal Street would offer a sense of arrival and establish the University image in the community and ensure controlled access.

A defining edge could be established at the boundaries of the campus by creating a canopy roadway corridor along the planned perimeter roadway to the northeast and connecting to existing FAMU Way, Wahnish Way, Orange Avenue and South Adams Street. Perimeter parking lots and green areas with substantial landscape would provide an “arbor wall” for a soft transition to urban neighborhoods adjacent to the campus.

Each of these concepts and other alternatives will be discussed with University officials and representatives of the neighborhoods surrounding FAMU. A solution, which mutually benefits the University and the neighboring communities, will be incorporated into the adopted Master Plan. The City of Tallahassee will also be invited to participate in this decision process.