



The College of New Jersey

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steering Committee

FROM: Carol Bresnahan, Executive Vice President and Provost
Curt Heuring, Vice President for Facilities Management, Construction and Campus Safety
Lloyd Ricketts, Associate Treasurer

DATE: 1 December 2010

RE: Input on Campus Facilities Planning and Construction Priorities

HEURING

We would like to request consideration by the Steering Committee to obtain input from the appropriate governance committee (likely the Committee on Planning and Priorities) on the principles for prioritization of campus facilities planning and construction projects. The College is facing challenges related to maintaining a prudent level of reserves to protect our financial health and limitations on our bonding capacity that are impacting our ability to fund all the facilities planning and construction projects requested by faculty, students and staff. Because of these challenges, the College's current Conceptual Campus Facilities Master Plan, adopted in 2008 following broad campus commentary and participation, cannot be realized in its original time frame or scope. Further, new needs have emerged as a result of changing institutional priorities. Finally, certain program areas of the campus were intentionally left out of the 2008 Master Plan because they were not institutional priorities at the time of that plan; they may now need consideration.

As a result, we are seeking counsel from the Committee on Planning and Priorities on principles for prioritizing facility requests until such time as an update can be made to the Master Plan. The principles established by CPP will be used in the short term planning and implementation as well as in an update to the 2008 Master Plan expected to occur starting in the spring of 2011. We would appreciate the committee's holistic and strategic recommendations along the lines of what it recommended in 2005 (updated 2008) for budget decision-making principles, which began with "health, safety and security" as a priority. It is this kind of recommendation that would prove most helpful to us,

The Governance Structure and Processes document of 2005 describes the administration as "primarily responsible" for the "development of institutional priorities," but also charges the Committee on Planning and Priorities with periodic responsibility to "examine internal and external challenges and opportunities and define strategies for achieving the College mission and enhancing the College's future effectiveness." We believe that a governance committee, most likely the Committee on Planning and Priorities, is the appropriate locus in the Governance Process for providing institutional input into the general principles for prioritization of facility projects in the absence of an up-to-date master plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: R. Barbara Gitenstein
Rhelda Richards
Heather Fehn
Lynda Rothermel