

Action Team 5
NDSU Master Planning

Goal 1: Review the Memorial Union functions, space and design to ensure the building is creating the environment of today's students

Achievements: The surrounding environment around the Memorial Union, as well as the student needs have changed dramatically over the last 10 years. Recruiting is also as important as it every has been. The current building doesn't have adequate space to accommodate the needs so an expansion is truly the only viable option.

Challenges: The Memorial Union serves not only the students on campus but includes retail functions that serve staff and the community, as well as many meeting rooms for internal and external activities. The three challenges that will be faced will be:

1. With a new student body leadership team, they will be to be supportive for a student vote for a student fee increase
2. Funding sources for the project
3. Having so many groups agree on what gets added and/or renovates knowing there won't be enough money to complete everything

Next Steps:

1. Student support is needed. An individual or individuals will need to follow to help garner that support.
2. The NDSU Foundation needs to support this project or funding will jeopardize the project.
3. Ultimately a group or committee will need to determine what goes into the addition as well as what gets renovated.

Goal 2: Academic Space needs/changes with a changing Higher Education environment

Achievement1:

A: There was on meeting held with the Dean's, Provost, some Vice-Provost, VP Research, staff and student senate presidents and others to discuss

space needs in the future. Following is the list of ideas that meeting generated:

Needed spaces/activities

- Core Lab/Human Lab
- Clinical Vivarium
- Clinical Nutrient Lab
- Vivarium **
- Research/Wet labs **
- Environmental/Energy/Materials labs
- Short grad office spaces **
- Physical Museum
- Additional space for Center for Writers
- Additional office space for NDSU-federal funded employees
- Welcome Center for the campus/prospective students **
- ABEN Field lab
- General office needs for additional staff
- Additional classrooms in the size between 75 and 275
- Recording study
- More active learning rooms
- A true one-stop space
- More student support for non-traditional students (7 am to 7 pm)
- Review library collections

Renovate:

- Askanase
- South Engineering
- Barry Hall atrium refresh
- 2nd floor Library

Lease space concerns

- Space back-up plan if the West Building lease wasn't renewed
- Space back-up plan if the Sanford building in Bismarck wasn't renewed

Other:

- Grow College of Engineering (CoE) back to 2014 levels
- Move Center for Social Research out of the lease building (Prairie Hall)
- Access to child care for extended hours

B: The Peltier, Bolley and Offerdahl projects, as well as the Music addition project, have all added much needed space to the various departments and colleges.

C: Athletics' main space challenge is the need for an expanded wrestling facility. This project and approval for fundraising have been approved.

D: Residence Life continues to update their facilities that has a positive impact for recruiting.

E: Dining continues to take student and staff feedback on new ideas and expanded options. The Memorial Union lower-level dining changes that will be complete for fall are one result of those ideas. Another enhancement is the micro market being created at Barry Hall

F: The Bookstore has implemented new pricing options for books and course material that might be the first of a kind in the region.

Challenges: There didn't seem to be any major challenges with respect asking about future space needs. The hurdle will be if NDSU asked for additional space, how will they justify it with all of the new buildings added the last 6 years.

Next Steps: Most of this material can be incorporated into the amended master plan that is forecasted to be due the end of March in 2026.

Goal 3: Space Efficiencies and opportunities

Achievement1: One sub-assignment to this task was investigating if Coatings and Polymeric Materials (CPM) could fit into Sugihara. With the teach out of the Geoscience department as well as reviewing sponsored research activities, adequate space was identified to make this happen. In addition to moving CPM, there are discussions happening about locating equipment from R1 and R1A to Sugihara that will be more centrally located for better access for users on campus.

Challenges: There were and still are individuals with labs in the building without any sponsored research. Is that something the leadership on NDSU wants to continue to allow. This habit creates anxiety when asking employees to leave a lab for a new user that had sponsored research. There are individuals on campus with sub-par labs or labs they are sharing due a lack of space assigned to their unit. They should have a dedicated nice lab.

Another challenge was that the Department of Chemistry allowed employees to have access to labs without proper training, not following proper safety protocols with signage on the exterior of a lab, not complying with having chemicals entered into the Chimera chemical inventory and having a lab with safety violations based on clutter and egress issues.

Next Steps: A contractor is being advertised for to fit up a few labs for CPM. Facilities Management (FM) will also be fitting up other spaces to meet CPM's needs. Most moves will start August 4, 2025.

Achievement2: A meeting was held on July 23, 2024 with the Deans and the Provost. The main purposed was to discuss the recent Legislative Higher Education meetings as well as conversation NDUS was having on facility portfolio's and deferred maintenance. There seems to be a need to create a guiding principles document for offices and research labs. There was a general acceptance of:

- Average of three graduate students to one office size space (120 sq ft)
- Average of two post doc's to one office
- Many research assistants were viewed similarly like a post doc (two to an office)
- Emeritus faculty – some groups didn't have space assigned to them to give to emeritus faculty while others did. There were some individuals that felt we should take care of the core needs for the campus before giving space up to emeritus faculty. No final recommendation was created on this.
- Visiting professors – many felt that a single office would be fine if there was space. Otherwise, it should be a shared office or cube. It's not efficient having a dedicated office until the next visiting professor shows up.
- All staff and employees get an office or cube. Target is around 120 square feet for a standard office.
- Department chairs get one office. If they want two, they should have to pay for the second office.
- To have a dedicated research lab, the occupant needs sponsored research to support that space. The amount of sponsored research was a discussion point but no hard number was derived.

- There was discussion on if research labs should be set up like a hotel model, which is what Ag does for greenhouse space. No final conclusion on that.
- There was discussion about the NDUS/SBHE/Legislative targets for utilization on teaching classrooms. This was for information purposes.

Challenges: When space is free, best practices and efficient use of space may never happen.

Whether emeritus faculty receive an office was still undecided. If a department had to pay for space, would they be willing to pay for that cost out of their budget? A consistent guide should be put into place.

There seems to be a need for lab space that faculty and researchers need for testing ideas that might support future grant submissions. A plan should be developed that created these shared or scheduled opportunities.

Some type of guide or matrix should be developed for research labs. Optimization is not happening now.

Next Steps: A further meeting with key leaders and/or users should be called to formalize a consistent space use plan for offices and labs. At a interim Legislative committee meeting last year, there were discussions of NDUS schools going into an RCM model like UND or other colleges. If guidelines and space efficiency improvements aren't made, NDSU might be directed to that type of model.

Achievement3: Meetings were held with Scott Payne and Elinor Coatings. Ultimately, more space was found and rented to Elinor coatings.

Challenges: There wasn't much for challenges. The main hold up was having various groups that showed interest in the space and not following through to see if they were really interested.

Next Steps: A lease agreement has been signed for the additional space for Elinor coatings. A plan will need to be developed to rent out the CPM open space that will happen in the next six months.