

NEWS RELEASE  
THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

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The final consultants' report on master planning for the campus of The Evergreen State College at Olympia has been forwarded to college officials by two Seattle firms--Durham, Anderson and Freed, architects, and Quinton-Budlong, engineers.

Result of a 16-month study, the plan serves as a flexible blueprint for development of the new college's 990-acre campus northwest of Olympia. Though subject to review and revision by the college staff, the plan serves as the basic document for future land use decisions.

The report differs from the consultants' first-phase study, issued in October, 1968, in two major respects: (1) the academic core has assumed a more urban flavor through movement of buildings into a tighter arrangement than originally proposed; and (2) engineering, architectural, general planning and landscaping proposals are much more definitive.

Academic buildings occupy the geographical center of the campus and are tied together by a central plaza. According to the consultants, this tighter grouping allows greater freedom for future expansion of all structures, reduces walking distances, reduces the length and cost of utility lines, and allows parking development on a more efficient basis.

The consultants report that architectural concepts in the plan are keyed to an arrangement of buildings that encourages "the greatest possible interaction between students and faculty" and assures that "the buildings considered most academically important have the greatest psychological and visual impact".

"The development plan...will allow evolvement of a variety of architectural expressions while insuring a harmonious and meaningful relationship between buildings designed by different architects at different time

intervals," the report states. Textured concrete was chosen as the basic construction material for academic buildings.

Recognizing the Northwest's seasons, the architectural plan attempts to provide all-weather routes across the academic mall of the campus through use of wide building overhangs, recessed arcades and proposed covered walkways.

The plan contains specific recommendations about vehicular access to the campus, pointing out that the college "will be externally oriented to the automobile, but internally oriented to the pedestrian." Access plans include a freeway-type arterial extending from Highway 101, west of Olympia, to the campus. A route study by the State Highways Department already is under way and funds are available for preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition.

County road connections to the campus also are included in the master plan report, as well as a recommendation that a transit system be developed to further tie the college and the Olympia metropolitan area together. However, basic assumptions in the plan recognize the probability that "the private automobile will dominate the campus traffic pattern in the immediate future."

Detailed suggestions for vehicular parking and pedestrian circulation are contained in the consultants' report. Based on an ultimate enrollment of 12,000, the plan provides more than 8,000 parking spaces--each located "to require no more than a ten minute walk from car to campus destination." The proposals also call for screening of parking areas to avoid the "seas of asphalt" appearance.

Landscaping proposals focus on the desire to preserve the site's natural qualities and, where necessary because of clearing for buildings, to create an atmosphere that supplements existing conditions and compliments structural forms. Retention of large areas as ecological preserves for scientific study or peaceful contemplation remains a central feature of the plan.

The consultants' report also contains discussions of such matters as site grading, storm drainage, water distribution, sanitary sewers, fire protection, irrigation, heating, cooling, electrical distribution and other problems associated with building the equivalent of a small city.

Since the college will open in September, 1971, construction activities--based on master planning concepts--already are under way. Clearing of portions of the campus academic core, launched last June, is nearly complete and work is about to begin on an excavation, road paving and drainage project.

Completion of that work in early 1970 will pave the way for building construction, beginning with the library in February. Also under contract at varying intervals next year will be the college activities, lecture hall, laboratory, student residential, gymnasium, heating, garage and shops buildings, plus initial road, utilities and landscaping projects.

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