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Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 10:47 AM

To: Admin Distribution List <admin@easternct.edu>, Faculty Distribution List <faculty@easternct.edu>

Subject: Master Plan

April 7, 2015

Dear Colleague:

Yesterday, some questions were posed by members of the community regarding my announcement of the Master Planning Committee. I wish to address some of those concerns and give a description of what the Master Planning process entails and its expected outcomes.

The System Office historically and systematically retains a master planning consultant to assist the Universities in developing a facilities Master Plan. Since the Master Plan necessitates a great deal of technical expertise in architecture and engineering, a University community could not develop a Master Plan on its own. The plan provides a detailed review based on demographic projections, program overview, and existing facility conditions. The plan is a road map for the development of the campus, addressing facility, academic, and infrastructure needs. Land use and massing are also core components. The Master Plan supports the Strategic Plan by providing the framework for the build out or renovation of facilities to support the strategic goals of the University.

The System has typically undertaken a Master Planning process every 10 years. Eastern's last Master Plan was completed in 2008, prior to that, Master Plans were completed in 1997 and 1990. Southern is completing their Master Planning process this semester. In the rotation cycle, Western was scheduled to be next in line but declined. Eastern was given the opportunity and accepted the new position in the rotation cycle. It is a wonderful opportunity to continue to plan our future campus improvements to meet the vision of the Strategic Plan and to sustain our Liberal Arts mission.

The consulting firm was identified through a quality based selection process. An RFP was published in 2013 listing specific tasks and goals of the master planning process. A committee comprised of one representative from each of the Universities and a representative from the Board of Regents reviewed the 11 proposals that were submitted. Four consultants were short listed and interviewed and the Team of Perkins+Will was selected. This firm is comprised of architects, academic planners, engineers, and a cost estimating consultants. The consultants are extremely knowledgeable, creative and flexible with assisting the University in determining its future capital plan.

Funding for this program is from FY 2015 bond funds NOT operating funds. The System Office pays for the costs with these bond funds. Please contact me if you need further clarification. Thanks so much for your continued support of my efforts to move Eastern forward. Elsa

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