

Classified Senate EFMP Review 2023



Compiled by Michael Monsour,
Classified Senate President
College of the Canyons
Michael.Monsour@Canyons.edu

Forward

We would like to express our gratitude to the District and Mr. Schrage for providing us with the opportunity to review the draft of the Education and Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) for College of the Canyons.

The Senate commends the authors for incorporating data throughout the document and their commitment to gathering input through charrettes and multiple interviews over the past two years. It is evident that a significant amount of time and resources have been devoted to the creation of this plan. However, our analysis aims to identify areas where the Senate believes further improvements could have been made, addressing concerns expressed by our readers.

Foremost among these concerns is the perception that the document overly relies on prior EFMP historical content and derivative information from department Program Reviews. This reliance tends to overshadow the expected level of detailed planning materials that should be present in a document focused on the District's future development. Consequently, we would like to draw attention to specific areas where members of the Classified Senate have noted a desire for supplemental information or more direction.

Please note that the purpose of our analysis is to provide constructive feedback and suggest potential improvements to ensure the document's effectiveness in future iterations.



General Observations:

While the plan includes a wealth of supporting and historical contextual information, as well as a comprehensive collection of individual academic program descriptions and summary plans, we found that it lacked sufficient emphasis on future facilities planning details. It would be valuable to include analyses of how the large-scale projects will affect campus offices and provide additional information about how the district will accommodate any disruptions they may cause.

One notable area within the plan that we wish had included additional content pertains to the Student Housing Project, which is only briefly mentioned in six sentences on page 533. While we acknowledge that this project is still in its early planning stages, it is important to recognize that it will have a substantial impact on the entire Valencia campus and, notably, on classified employees who may now be involved in operating a 24/7 business. Considering the scale of this project and the potential implications for the college community, it is reasonable to assume that additional planning information is available. For instance, if the college has received a multi-million dollar grant for this project, it is likely that there are more details provided in the grant proposal or from the firms hired to assess the selected site. It would be beneficial for the EFMP to incorporate some of this information, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the project's background, rationale, and scope. For example, the EFMP could offer insights into the decision-making process behind selecting Lot 6 as the chosen location for the housing building, and how removing this Lot will impact vehicular or pedestrian traffic described in other sections without this building mentioned. By providing a more detailed account of the housing planning process, timelines, etc., the plan can effectively address potential uncertainties and foster a greater sense of involvement and understanding among all those impacted by the project.

Communication:

We have received feedback from classified employees expressing that projects are being undertaken without adequate forewarning or information. This highlights the potential need for more frequent Facilities Planning Committee meetings and improved email communications to keep employees informed and involved. We recommend implementing a targeted communication system for construction projects. This involves creating building-specific listservs for employees and sending them emails/calendars when construction activities such as jackhammering or temporary fencing will impact their buildings or work sites. The emails should include start dates, expected durations, and any necessary instructions. This approach ensures timely and tailored communication, fostering transparency and cooperation between employees and Facilities Planning. The Senate would also like to see the EFMP specifically highlight how “Space Planning” (pg. 493) will be done in collaboration with stakeholders.

Student Center:

Another example of a section of plan the Senate found vague was the Student Center Renovation Project. While the plan briefly mentions the repurposing of cafeteria space, it doesn't provide essential information regarding how students will continue to have adequate indoor dining options. Additionally, there is a lack of specificity regarding which campus offices will be affected by these changes (pg. 532).

Intercultural Center:

On page 529 of the plan, the introduction of the new Intercultural Center (ICC) is mentioned. However, it is important to note that the acronym "ICC" is already being used throughout District webpages for the Inter Club Council, which also hosts a calendar of activities. The Senate was under the impression that students were already surveyed and selected the name "Multicultural Center." However, it appears the District is opting to use "Intercultural Center," instead. Regardless of which name is ultimately used, the labels "Multicultural Center" and "Intercultural Center" can now be found throughout the EFMP interchangeably. This can be observed on pages 45, 246, and 455, as well as on District webpages and media.

Sustainability:

The Classified Senate would have liked the EFMP to have a broader Sustainability section, which begins on page 537, particularly with regards to future plans to enhance campus recycling programs. Senators have observed instances where recycling bins appear to be combined with the trash during late-night cleaning. This raises concerns within the Senate that recycling efforts by the District may not be consistently implemented. Therefore, the Senate would like to gain more insight into plans aimed at improving recycling efforts and oversight practices to ensure that the blue containers across campus are being properly sorted and designated for recycling.

To address these concerns and strengthen sustainability initiatives, we recommend that the EFMP include goals for campus recycling programs. This should involve outlining strategies for increasing awareness and participation in recycling among students, faculty, and staff.

Increasing Campus Shade:

As mentioned in the "Inspirational Concepts" section on page 536, it is acknowledged that there is currently a lack of environmentally protected outdoor learning and social gathering spaces at both campus locations. Classified members have raised concerns about the removal of shade trees without adequate replacement or alternative shading structures, particularly near the outdoor Valencia amphitheater. In order to address this issue, it would be beneficial for the plan to provide more specific details about shade structures on campus and outline the steps that will be taken in the coming years to improve this situation.

Vehicular Circulations:

On page 514, the plan addresses vehicular circulations on campus; however, it overlooks the challenges arising from the poorly designed paths for golf carts and small maintenance vehicles. These vehicles play a vital role in ensuring the efficient operation and maintenance of the

campus. The current path design creates significant difficulties and inconveniences for these small vehicle drivers, hampering their ability to navigate the campus effectively.

An example of this issue can be observed when traveling from Valencia Campus Lot 1 or 2 to Lot 3 using a golf cart. The handrails on the most obvious access ramp obstruct the most direct cart path, requiring carts to detour to a handicap ramp and onto the sidewalk of the roundabout. They then need to navigate through a blind alley by the side of the Student Center, descend the hill by campus safety, and finally backtrack to Lot 3, all just to traverse a few feet. To address these types of challenges and enhance operational efficiency, the EFMP should include a dedicated section highlighting strategies for improving traffic flow of small maintenance vehicles and carts throughout campus. Future construction should consider both the needs of ADA access as well as the path and ramp widths to accommodate cart access. The current plan states *“There are no notable conflicts between pedestrian and vehicular circulation. There is a well-designed main axis for pedestrian as well as the sub axis”* (pg. 513). The Senate disagrees with this assessment, as carts and pedestrians are often intermixed in shared narrow or blind corner passages made worse during construction.

Vehicular Circulations at Canyon Country:

“The original vehicular circulation designed by the previous Master Plan has worked well. There’s no need to alter or modify” - The Classified Senate disagrees with this assessment. For example, a missed turn to access the new buildings causes a driver to not only circle the campus, but to leave the campus entirely and return to the highway. The Senate believes the access road for new buildings (Science Center and Student Services Buildings) should be converted into to a two-direction street, such that there is an internal circle back/return for cars within the campus property.

Leaking Roofs:

Classified have reported multiple leaking buildings that are not listed as needing roof renovation work in the plan. Specifically, Canyons Hall, The CCC Science Center, and The CCC Student Services Building. These are new buildings, and should not yet need roof repairs, nevertheless, it is unclear if their water abatement issues have been fully resolved or how this issue will be planned for and avoided in future construction projects.

Parking Lots:

While the plan lists building renovation tiers and priorities, it is less clear how parking lot renovations will occur within the repair schedule. For example, Parking Lot 1 on the Valencia campus is in very poor overall condition and the parking lines are almost entirely faded out. Senators from the Canyon Country Campus also expressed concerns that with the addition of a new Natural Health and Sciences Building that the current allotment of parking spaces in Lot 3 will be insufficient if enrollment continues to improve.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide our analysis and feedback of areas for improvement. We look forward to continued collaboration and constructive dialogue as we work together to enhance the Education and Facilities Planning process and the College as a whole.

Sincerely,

Classified Senate