# Campus Real Estate and Capital Infrastructure Improvements

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# Introduction

My work at Drew University included divisional oversight of real estate, capital infrastructure improvements, campus beautification, and the supervision of a multimillion-dollar annual capital budget.

I was also the lead staff person for the Board of Trustees' Buildings and Grounds Committee.

At the time, Drew had a 186-acre campus. About eighty-nine of those acres were developed, accommodating 51 buildings with about 1 million gross square feet. The average age of these buildings was eightyfour years.

Outlined here are examples of the work done by the Facilities Department team that I supervised, supported by countless contractors and other professional service providers. Pictured here is a section of a significantly upgraded dining hall, opened in 2016.

Campus Real Estate and Capital Infrastructure Improvements Drew University 2016 - 2021 **Real Estate** 

Led the development of a multi-year real estate strategic plan, as commissioned by the Board of Trustees.

**Revived the monetization of non-core University-owned and operated properties** including four vacant lots zoned for housing, eight single-family homes and one multi-unit facility with a combined appraised value of about \$8.5 million.

•A later phase anticipated the sale of three additional properties at a then appraised value exceeding \$2 million.

Led the initial phases of the legal and operational reorganization of a 46-unit condominium facility, taking it from a mostly University controlled and operated entity to one with a fully independent condominium association.

•This reorganization contributed to --

- •Reduced direct and indirect operating costs for the institution; and
- •the later sale of 28 University-owned units to a private developer.

Introduced a thoughtful, yet purposeful institutional dialogue about selling or codeveloping select parcels of nearly 30 acres of undeveloped peripheral campus property through a public-private partnership.

The University continues to earnestly explore development opportunities for this peripheral property.
Any income generated from this activity would be mostly invested in the University's endowment.

#### **Capital Projects**

- Installation of a one-stop shop service center for the offices of financial aid, student accounting, and the registrar.
- Installation of two new biology wet labs.
- The replacement of roofs for four residence halls, the main athletic facility, and the science building.
- Interior remodeling of residence halls, including the waterproofing of bathrooms.
- Residence hall boiler replacements.



#### Infrastructure Improvements

### Campus Map

## Had divisional oversight for infrastructure improvements that included –

- •Significant upgrades to an underground steam heating system.
- •Upgrades to campus electrical infrastructure, including main electrical sub-stations and transformers.
- •Code compliance upgrades, such as installing hard-wired centrally monitored carbon monoxide sensors is residence halls.
- •Underground storage tank soil remediation and tank removal.
- •Campus-wide replacement of security cameras.
- •VOIP phone system replacement for the campus.
- •Main road and parking lot repaving.
- •ADA ramp replacements.
- •Instructional space rehabilitation, including painting, carpeting, dropped ceilings, lighting, furniture, and AV equipment.
- •Campus-wide Wi-Fi system upgrade.
- •Installation of a new 10G fiber network.

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#### **Institutional Space Planning**

Led a campuswide committee for the development of an institutional space use plan to accommodate anticipated enrollment growth (driven by the University's tuition reset plan).

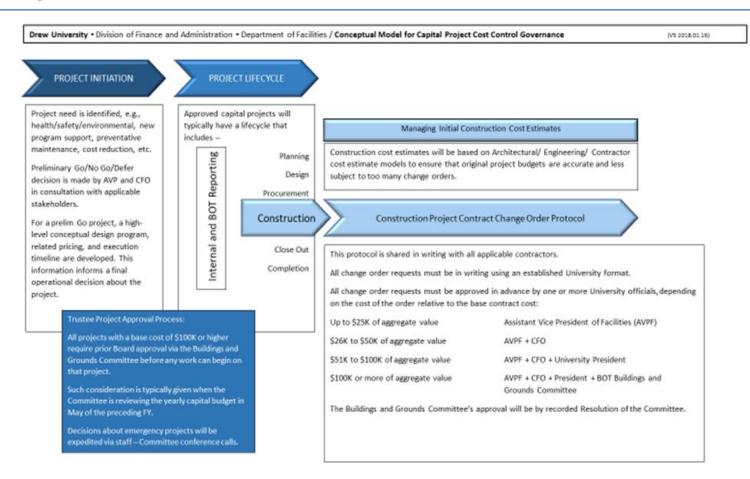
Drew reset its tuition and saw a significant increase in new student applications.

This review process -- including an independent comprehensive, campus-wide space usage analysis – pre-emptively addressed how instructional, student life, and administrative space should be changed to best accommodate anticipated growth in the student population.

Outcomes included proposals to address a larger student population and, regardless of any enrollment growth, space modifications that would enhance current living – learning conditions, e.g.,

- Instructional Space –
- Right-size select classrooms to meet industry standard targets.
- Develop room use policies to ensure that all classrooms are used to maximum capacity.
- Invest in targeted improvements in classrooms that do not support pedagogical needs.
- Consider ways to provide two new wet labs for biology and chemistry.
- Student Life Space
  - An anticipated significant housing shortage was identified for undergraduate and graduate students.
  - Plans were developed to increase the density of current housing and lease off-campus space.
- Administrative Space
  - The need for a one-stop service center was identified, leading to the creation of a new

#### **Project Governance**



I introduced a capital project governance process to establish a system of checks and balances to manage cost escalations. This chart represents that process as approved by the Trustees' Buildings and Grounds Committee.