October 11, 2021

Dr. Eric Bishop, President
Mr. Jeff Roberts
College Council Co-Chairs
Ohlone Community College District
43600 Mission Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94539

Subject: Ohlone College District Facilities Masterplan 2022-2032

Dear Dr. Bishop and Mr. Roberts,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with the College Council. As you know from our previous meetings, we are engaged in developing a District Masterplan for Ohlone College for the ten-year period starting in 2022. In advance of our meeting, we want to share some of our questions at the outset but encourage your team to take the conversation to other topics so that we can get the most comprehensive view of the Council’s needs. These questions and discussion are from the lens of the College facilities and how they will be shaped to best serve the institution over the next decade.

2020-2025 Vision

1) The Strategic Plan highlights that full-time students are increasing, but overall enrollment is in decline. With a stated goal of 10,000 FTS, what is the goal for enrichment and non-full-time students?

2) The strategic plan identified that part time students require the same students services as full-time students. What’s the total student goal, and do you see the need for student services to increase/decrease in kind in comparison to what is provided currently? The Plan also mentions strategically reorganizing at multiple levels to reduce the workforce in response to declining enrollment and revenue. How does this relate to the student services being provided?

3) Vocational programs and training is mentioned several times in the Strategic Plan recommendations. Are current facilities at each campus adequate for these initiatives? If not, how could they be modified and/or expanded?

4) The Strategic Plan that vocational offerings should align with current and emerging employment trends in the district and Silicon Valley, targeting mid-wage career employment opportunities. Do you see this occurring as off-site internships, or as the College providing a space for on-site vocational learning?

5) The shift in state funding emphasizes credit courses. The Strategic Plan states that noncredit course and program offerings will be significantly expanded. How is this reconciled, and what noncredit courses/programs are under consideration for expansion?
6) One of the Strategic Plan recommendations asserts “Be innovative, aggressive, and diligent in pursuit of non-apportionment revenue”. How can the DFMP support this concept? What types of facilities could be included; e.g., a continuing education facility? ... a convocation center?

7) In the Strategic Plan recommendations, safety at both campuses is mentioned on two occasions. How should the DFMP interpret this concern?

8) Another recommendation is “Facilitate extensive engagement with the broader District community”. How can the DFMP best support this process?

9) The Strategic Plan mentions extensive engagement with the broader District community to create alliances. What alliances does the Council have in mind? Would providing space in Union City to serve the northern-Fremont and Union City population be considered?

10) How has the continuing pandemic impacted the 6/1/20 Strategic Plan, its objectives and its recommendations?

11) What other ways can the 2022-2032 DFMP support the current Strategic Plan and its recommendations?

Facilities

12) What are your highest priorities related to facilities for the District over the next decade?

13) Housing has been a topic of discussion that has received support at previous meetings. We’ve heard the College has proposed housing partnerships in the past along Mission Blvd. which have received significant push-back from the community. Where does the College stand on providing student and faculty housing?

14) How do you view the relationship between the two campuses, and what does Newark need to become an independent campus?

15) How do you see the pandemic changing the way outdoor spaces are used, and what spaces need study to meet more effective gathering and educational needs?

Program Offerings

16) What is the anticipated post-pandemic ratio of online/hybrid/in-person learning?

17) In the next ten years, how will Ohlone modify or maintain options for online learning? What does Ohlone College need in its facilities and technical infrastructure to continue the advancement of education, learning and research?

18) What additional offerings could be made to the Ohlone regional community to maintain their active support of the College, including potential bond proposals?
We understand your time has many demands as we start the new academic year and appreciate you setting aside time to discuss this important planning process.

Sincerely,
ELS Architecture and Urban Design

David Masenten, AIA, LEED BD+C
Principal