The Sonic Plaza Open House was conducted at the north entrance to the plaza adjacent to the Mall area, on September 2, 2009 between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The purpose of this open house was to gather input in an open forum to identify concerns and relevant issues relating to the ECU Comprehensive Plan. This session was particularly well attended by faculty and staff of the University. An electronic invitation went out campus-wide to invite students and faculty to discuss issues with the planning team.

The SmithGroup/JJR team solicited information through two simple and engaging exercises. With the first exercise, attendees are asked to identify their favorite places on campus and least favorite places on campus. This exercise requires participants to vote using red (least favorite) and green (most favorite) dots on campus maps. Participants were given 2 red and 2 green dots to place on the maps. The SmithGroup/JJR team guides this exercise and gains an understanding of why these places are generally good or generally bad. The second exercise allows people to respond to with questions and concerns relating that address anything from campus image, transportation, security, student life, to buildings and facilities.

Participants are invited to "post" their thoughts by jotting their questions/concerns on "post-it notes" and sticking them to a comments board under the appropriate topics: "ECU is the best at," "ECU could improve this," "Rants & Raves." This exercise allows people to voice what they value in a campus context from physical features and amenities, to topics such as safety and security.

MEETING NOTES

Dot-voting and "Post-It" Exercises-
The following responses were gathered from the “post-it” exercise:

“ECU is the best at…”
- Green space, more space like the Mall
- Keep the green spaces and the trees (2 Comments)
- Master plan is a great process
- Love the historic parts of campus

“ECU could improve…”
- Pedestrian safety, barricade signs
- Bus shelters and bus wayfinding
- Dedicated bus/transit hub without parking & pedestrian conflicts
- Parking needs to be closer to dorms
- Residence halls, cleanliness, get rid of roaches
- Pedestrian crossings at Campus Towers and Recreation Center
- 10th Street Pedestrian safety
- Lighting and Security improvements
- More open spaces
- Pedestrian safety crossing 14th from athletics
- Contache Street too narrow
- More student housing on campus
- Need to accommodate the stadium expansion from a parking/bussing standpoint
- Better bicycle and pedestrian amenities
- Better pedestrian connection across 10th to College Hill, bridge?
- Parking is fine, but access to lots needs to be improved.
- Class schedules should be spread out to relieve congestion on busses
- Lighting from Parking to campus
- Campus should spread to the north, it feels closed off
- Unification of site elements, lighting, etc.
- Replace parking lots with student housing
- Brewster Hall is bad
- Library needs a way-finding landmark
- Student Union/Transit center needs central location
- 5th street crime around bus areas
- Need linkage between campuses
- Dedicated Park & Ride transit

“Rants & Raves”

- Does ECU have an all female dorm option???

NEXT STEPS

The SmithGroup/JJR team will review the issues identified and identify key concerns and reoccurring themes in the responses. These topics will be addressed as key stakeholder concerns in the Master Planning process. The team will also identify if there is greater research or interaction with interested stakeholders needed to more precisely identify key issues.

GRAPHICS

“Dot-Vote” Exercise Results

If this report does not agree with your records or understanding of this meeting, or if there are any questions, please advise the writer immediately in writing; otherwise, we will assume the comments to be correct.