



SCHOOL DEVELOPS 10-YEAR MASTER PLAN

Defining Facilities Needs, Setting Priorities

BY BETH ADAMS

With a focus on advancing its mission of excellence in education, research, and patient care, Penn Dental Medicine has undertaken a strategic review of its facilities, completing an extensive space study, and through it, developing a 10-year master plan for building renovations and campus improvements.

“In order to continue to attract top students and faculty, we need our key clinic, research, and teaching spaces to meet the expectations of an institution of our stature,” says Dr. Denis Kinane, Morton Amsterdam Dean of Penn Dental Medicine. “This plan defines how we can achieve this and defines a clear strategy for phased building improvements.”

Developed over a six-month period, the purpose of the study was to evaluate the existing use and condition of space throughout the School, assess space needs, evaluate alternative concepts, and define the optimum space program for the School’s facilities for the next 10 years. A design team of architects and engineers led by the architectural firm of Buell Kratzer Powell completed the study in consult with a Steering Committee of key Penn Dental Medicine administrators and Penn’s Office of Facilities and Real Estate Services. Generating input from the entire Penn Dental Medicine community was a priority as well with interviews and surveys conducted of faculty, staff, and students on facilities needs.

The research findings and needs analysis defined five key program priorities through the facilities improvements: improve the student experience, select projects that fulfill the School’s mission and generate revenue, revitalize research, maximize the availability of clinical procedures for teaching, and improve way finding through the School. The resulting 10-year master plan, completed in November, groups a series of 15 proposed capital projects into five coherent phases. Phase One contains enabling projects for Phases Two and Three; while the projects in Phases Four and Five can be done in any sequence as funding becomes available.

“The strategic phasing utilized enables the School to maintain clinical, teaching, and research operations throughout the renovation period, and provides flexibility to complete projects as funding opportunities and priorities dictate,” notes Dean Kinane.

PHASE ONE – Establishes a new predoctoral restorative teaching clinic in the lower concourse of the Evans Building, creates a new preclinical GRD lab on the third floor of the Evans Building that can function as a combined teaching facility and training center for continuing education, renovates and expands the Endodontic Clinic, and creates new study spaces within the School’s Library.

PHASE TWO – Renovates the historic Main Clinic and updates and redesigns the School research labs/facilities with floor-by-floor renovations of the Levy Building.

PHASE THREE – Establishes the Winter Garden and renovates the connecting lobby of the Levy Building, effectively bringing together clinical and research faculty for the first time. The Winter Garden is an extension of the Robert Schattner Center atrium that will provide a weather-protected public space for gathering and a visible physical link to the Levy Building.

PHASE FOUR – Includes options for adding new spaces for teaching and meeting either on the lower concourse of the Evans Building with a Theater-in-the-Round, the first floor of the Levy Building with the Levy Conference Center, or the All-Campus Meeting Room on the second floor of Evans. All of these classroom options are also designed to improve the School’s ability to accommodate visitors, events, and seminars.

PHASE FIVE – Renovates an existing student lounge on the first floor of the Evans Building and an adjacent courtyard – a project that can be done at any time to enhance student amenities.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

ENDODONTIC CLINIC RENOVATION – PHASE ONE

Creating a new state-of-the-art Endodontic Clinic will reflect the state-of-the-art clinical instruction, research, and patient care that are the hallmarks of the Penn Dental Medicine endodontic program. Remaining on the second floor of the Evans Building, the Endodontic Clinic will be transformed into a modern clinic environment for optimum patient care and education. Expanding into adjoining space, the new clinic will:

- Increase the number of patients and students served — growing to include 23 chairs, two surgical suites, and a consultation room.
- Improve patient privacy with modular operatories that feature an operating microscope at each chair and computer monitors for accessing digital radiographs and patient records.
- Streamline patient flow with a new handicapped-accessible reception room.

Naming Opportunities

Endodontic Clinic Surgical Suites
 Operatories Reception Room
 Consultation Room



LOWER CONCOURSE CLINIC – PHASE ONE

The Lower Concourse Clinic, to be situated on the lower concourse of the Evans Building, replaces two existing predoctoral restorative teaching clinics (Paletz and Myers clinics) and will provide a total of 59 dental operatories within a single space. This new facility will improve teaching efficiencies and provide needed swing space for subsequent phases of the master plan.

The entry to this new space will be on the north side, allowing for a patient waiting area directly accessible from the lower level corridor and elevators in the Robert Schattner Center. The waiting area will also be bathed in natural light from an existing wall of windows that offer a view of the rock garden within the Robert Schattner Center courtyard.

Naming Opportunities

Clinic Operatories



Top and middle: The new Endodontic Clinic; expanding into adjoining space (top) the clinic will feature 23 chairs. Bottom: The waiting area of the new Lower Concourse Clinic.