

UH System

PERSPECTIVES

Special Edition

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## Regents Unveil Master Plan for University

The Board of Regents of the University of Houston System took a bold look toward the end of this century at a meeting on September 14, and gave approval to a far reaching and ambitious master plan of growth and development for the institution.

The plan calls for the extension of existing geographical boundaries, the acquisition of a major structure, and the construction of new facilities—all to help meet the physical plant needs of the UH System for the next decade.

Acting on the recommendations of President Charles E. Bishop and the University Community Committee chaired by Regent Joel Cummings, the regents committed some \$11 million to a number of projects that will add considerable acreage to the UH Central Campus and major building to the UH Downtown College Campus.

Other members of the University Community Committee are Regents Leonard Rauch, Mack Hannah and William Kistler, and Chancellor Barry Munitz, Facilities Planning Director Ted Montz, and Dr. Bishop.

The property slated for acquisition involves 20 acres across Calhoun Boulevard from the UH Central Campus; 15 acres on Cullen Boulevard, north of the UH Central Campus; one-third acre across from the UH Downtown College; and the Harley Hotel (101 Main Street, south of Buffalo Bayou and the UH Downtown College Campus).

The move to acquire the property adjacent to the UH Central Campus is part of a comprehensive, long-range

plan to improve the University's environment. Primary objectives are set out in the program:

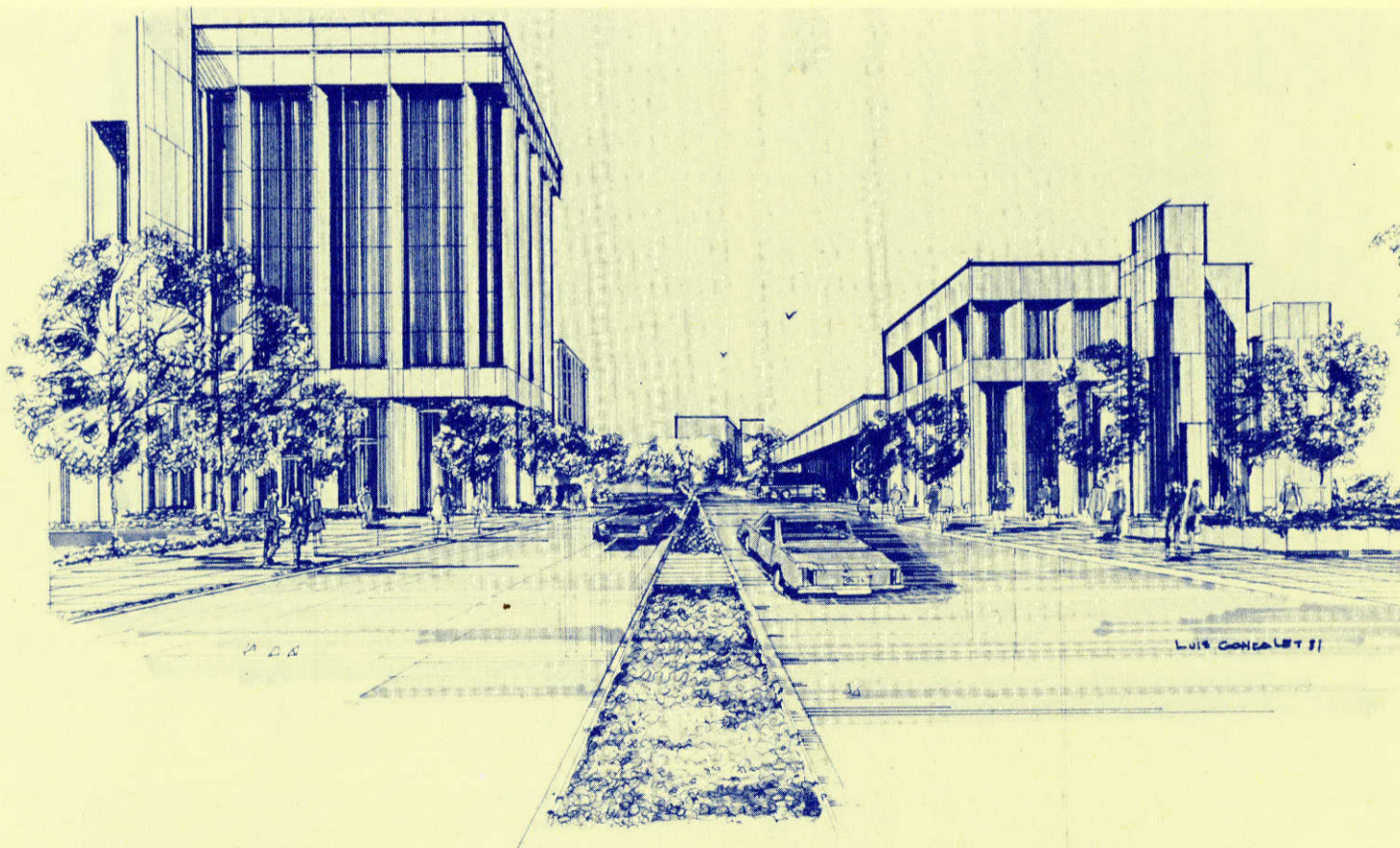
1. To accommodate new academic and institutional facilities on the appropriate sites;
2. To encourage an increasing number of students, staff and faculty to live near the UH Central Campus;
3. To improve vehicular and pedestrian circulation within, and to and from, the campus community area;
4. To attract new public and private investments into the UH community area.

In its action, the Board authorized the acquisition of the designated properties either by purchase, donation, or if necessary, eminent domain.

The acquisition of property adjacent to the UH Central Campus will permit the University to extend its boundaries from the Gulf Freeway on its north side to Brays Bayou on its south side. The western boundary of the University fronts on portions of Cullen, Scott, and Elgin Streets, and the southern boundary is at North MacGregor Boulevard.

The 20 acres on the Calhoun side will complement the property that the University acquired a number of years ago and is presently occupied by the College of Optometry. Plans call for the new acreage to be used for the

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The north Cullen Boulevard area will have a new look after it is developed according to the master plan approved September 14 by the UH Board of Regents. The plan proposes constructing a UH System administration building, an information center, an interdisciplinary clinic, a fraternity/sorority complex, a geophysics building, and a bus terminal in this area.

# The Master Plan . . .

development of faculty, staff and student housing, along with various community support facilities.

The property along the north Cullen corridor will serve multiple uses, including space for a large information center, a bus terminal, public clinics, a geophysics building, a system administration structure, and housing for campus fraternities and sororities.

Also, Cullen Boulevard would be widened to make way for an esplanade. Under the plan, people approaching the campus from the Gulf Freeway exit would immediately see a complete campus community

At the Downtown College, the Harley Hotel will offer facilities for conferences, food operation, parking, residential use, and several large classrooms. Other property, when acquired, will be used to provide badly needed parking space.

The overall plan adopted by the regents also calls for a number of new buildings, including a major facility at UH Clear Lake City Campus, and at least five major structures on the UH Central Campus.

Now in the planning stages, the UH Central Campus buildings will require major funding before they can be started. Buildings are planned for the following areas: College of Architecture, College of Business Administration, Science and Research addition, Library addition, Hotel and Continuing Education addition, a Geophysics building, and a clinic.

Commenting on the Board of Regents' action to expand and to upgrade the University of Houston System's present physical plant and property, Dr. Bishop stated, "This University is going to be here for a long time to come. We must start now to plan and to carry out those plans that will meet the needs of our students, faculty and staff for years to come. Today, we take an important step in that direction."

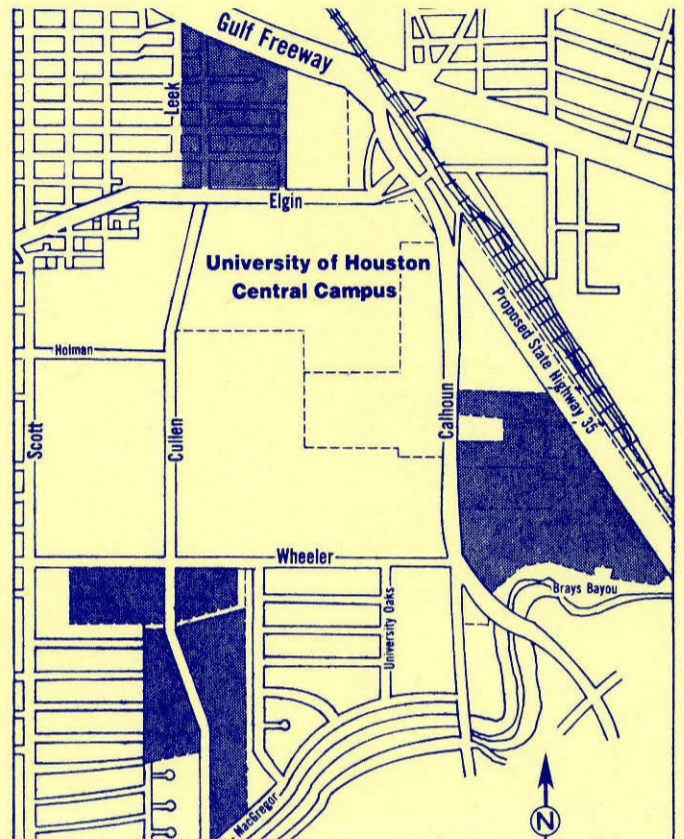
"Adoption of this plan is critical. It responds to the existing needs, as well as those that are foreseen through the 1980s. Implementation of the plan will require time, considerable financial resources and the support of many city, state, and other public and private institutions.

"This plan is necessary to insure that the highest quality educational programs will be offered, and to enhance the University of Houston leadership role in the greater Houston metropolitan area."

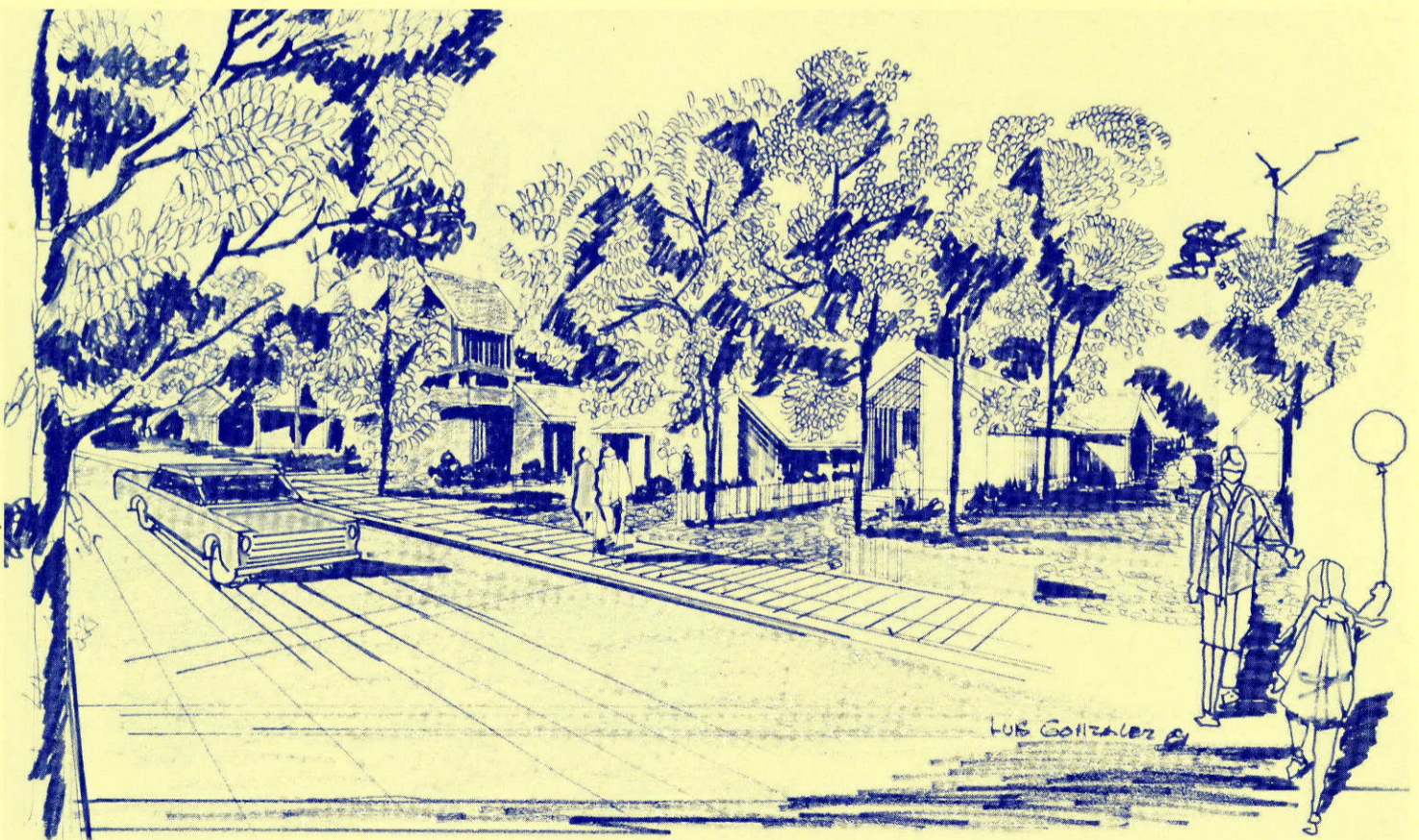
Mack Hannah, Jr., chairman of the UH Board of Regents, also commented on the plan:

"The board takes special pride in the development of such a far sighted, dynamic plan by the University. It affirms our belief in the importance of the University to the community, as well as our commitment to the future of Houston."

The chairman of the University Community Committee, Regent Joel Cummings, stated, "This is a proud moment for me and for the University of Houston. I want to thank the committee for its dedication and hard work."



UH Central Campus expansion plans include developing the areas indicated by the shaded portion on the map. The University owns parts of this land and has announced that it will acquire the rest.



An artist's concept of how the south Cullen Boulevard area will look after it is developed according to the master plan approved on September 14 by the UH Board of Regents. The plan calls for residential and related development in this area, which is bounded by Wheeler Street, the University Oaks residential area, North MacGregor Drive and Scott Street.

# UH Downtown College Acquires Harley Hotel

Purchase of the \$7.35 million Harley Hotel by the University of Houston Downtown College was approved by the UH System Board of Regents at a meeting on September 14; the acquisition requires approval of the Coordinating Board of Texas Colleges and Universities, which could consider the matter at its October 30 meeting.

"This is an exciting moment for our college," said Dr. Alexander F. Schilt, chancellor, "made possible in part by the generosity of Mr. Harry B. Helmsley." Helmsley made what amounts to a \$2 million gift, in accepting only \$5.35 million for the property (\$93.05 per square foot).

"The Harley would give the college excellent and immediately usable space which we critically need," said Dr. Schilt. UHDC's enrollment has increased so rapidly that projections for growth to 1990 have been surpassed. "Our present space cannot properly meet present needs, much less those of the future," he said.

"If the Coordinating Board agrees to the purchase, we will have use of the Harley by spring for instructional space, study lounges, student activities and recreation, and food service. We could begin to meet the housing needs of our students, and the additional parking would relieve another stress our students now face.

During the record fall enrollment, students surveyed expressed interest in both housing and a meal plan. Over 20 percent of those surveyed desired and need campus housing, and 30 percent would like a meal plan. "With the variety of facilities the Harley would provide, we could better meet the needs of our growing student body," said the chancellor.

The purchase would also be a stabilizing factor for the northern downtown area, he emphasized. "This is a bold move by President Bishop and our Board of Regents, underscoring their commitment to fully meet the mission of the University of Houston in the service area of the Downtown College."

The Board recently received a 10-year facilities plan from the college, which enrolls 20 percent of all undergraduates in the UH System. The plan projects an investment in that decade of \$50 million to accommodate enrollment growth through continued renovation, land acquisition, and new construction in the vicinity of One Main Street.

"We will play an active part in the revitalization of our service area," said Dr. Schilt. "As the college grows, it will increasingly enhance the quality of downtown life, and as our area prospers and develops, students of the Downtown College will benefit from a uniquely rich learning environment."

## Harley Hotel Expands UHDC Resources

Built in 1961, the Harley Hotel at 101 Main Street occupies 57,500 square feet—nearly an entire city block. It has 168,000 gross square feet in nine stories, a mezzanine, basement and 235-space garage.

Its facilities include 240 rooms, nine meeting rooms (three 20-person, one 25-person, four 100-person, one 125-person), a coffee shop, dining room and kitchens. An auditorium can be created from the four 100-person meeting rooms. Furnishings are complete. The Helmsley organization has put \$2 million into improvements.

If the Coordinating Board approves the purchase at its October 30th meeting, the College could begin use of facilities in the spring semester.

In addition to projected uses mentioned above by Dr. Schilt, Harley space would be valuable for "turnaround" during the next six years, as renovation of One Main Street requires temporary relocations.

The basement of the Harley provides 13,237 square feet and would have many uses, including storage and maintenance.



The nine-story Harley Hotel, purchased by the University for \$5.35 million, will add 168,000 gross square feet of space to the UH Downtown College.

### Equitable Funding . . . from page 4

Second, we could follow the course which has been charted by Midwestern State University students and regents and seek relief through the courts, challenging the right of the legislature to render a constitutionally established tax ineffective. If the plaintiffs are successful, the funds which would be generated would be more than sufficient to meet the needs of the University of Houston and institutions similarly situated. I had hoped that a more reasonable resolution could be reached.

A third alternative which could be pursued is to seek injunctive relief through the courts, enjoining the State from authorizing any appropriations for construction until all institutions are treated in a comparable manner.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that there must be other alternatives which we may wish to consider. This is a difficult and complex matter. In view of the possible seriousness of the implications for the students of this University, you may wish to appoint a committee of the Board of Regents to give special study to this problem and to make specific recommendations to the Board for action. I recommend that you do so.

In closing, let me recognize the election of Mr. Mack Hannah to the chairmanship of this Board and express in behalf of the administration our delight in his election. Mr. Hannah, we assure you that we look forward to working with you in the continued development of this important institution of higher education.

### Perspectives

Perspectives is published monthly by the UH System University Relations Office. Executive Director: Farris Block, 749-4149. Editor: Haise Currie.

The University of Houston seeks to provide equal educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or veteran status.

This policy extends to all programs and activities supported by the University.

# President Bishop Calls for Equitable Funding for Higher Education in Texas

*Dr. Charles E. Bishop, president of the University of Houston System, made a report to the UH Board of Regents at a meeting on September 14, 1981. The complete text of Dr. Bishop's remarks follows:*

On behalf of the administration, I want to express appreciation to Mr. Rauch and to the Board for the many accomplishments which you have made possible at the University of Houston. Mr. Rauch has been most generous with his time and talents on behalf of the University. He has always been available to assist in meeting every need, and he has been most effective in helping the administration to achieve the University's major goals. We are most grateful to him.

Under the leadership of this Board, very important changes have been made in the University of Houston System. You have given guidance in the emergence of a sophisticated system of higher education in the Houston area. This has been a major undertaking. It has involved delineation of appropriate roles to be emphasized by the various components of the University of Houston System and the development of complementary strengths among the campuses. The young system is rapidly moving in the development of high quality educational programs to meet the diverse needs of the people of the Houston metropolitan area.

Today, you have taken a number of important actions that provide assurance to the people of the state, and to the faculty, staff and students of the University of Houston System that you are dedicated to the long-run development of the University, and that you are planning to accommodate the needs of the institution. The plans which you endorsed today will serve this University well as it endeavors to prepare for the educational demands which will be placed upon it during the next decade.

You have encouraged the administration to adopt a six-year program of systematic planning in order to review periodically the University's curricula, laboratory and equipment needs, the adequacy of its library holdings, and the changes in faculty and staff patterns necessary to accommodate a dynamic and growing institution. It is our plan to report to you later this year on the six-year comprehensive plans that are being developed by the components.

Under your leadership, specialized laboratories are being developed on the campuses and modern computerized equipment is being installed in the classrooms and laboratories. I am pleased to report to you today that a major computer for instructional and research uses, the first solely for these purposes in the University of Houston System, has been installed and is now in operation. When the other elements in this network have been funded and acquired, we will have modern instructional and research capabilities.

Under your leadership, the University has developed a computerized financial system and has reorganized its financial administration in order to increase the efficiency of our accounting and to improve accountability to the public.

In the budget which you approved today, you demonstrated your commitment that the University continue to enhance the quality of its academic programs. You authorized salary schedules which will enable the University of Houston to bring top talent from throughout the country, funds for the purchase of specialized laboratory equipment which might be needed to initiate new research programs, funds for start-up activities for young faculty, and a faculty development program to enable members of the faculty to enhance their creativity and productivity and

to remain current with developments in their respective fields.

In recognition of the fact that no major university can remain a static institution, you have provided funds for curriculum review and new course development. These are essential steps in the development of a major institution of higher education, and we are most grateful that you have taken them.

We would also like to express our appreciation to you for establishing special scholarships to enable the University to attract highly promising young students.

Even though much has been accomplished, we recognize that no major institution, and especially no institution of higher education, can remain static. There is always an unfinished agenda.

High on the unfinished agenda for the University of Houston System is the attainment of funds for capital construction and renovation and for adequately equipping the laboratories, classrooms, and libraries of this institution. The University of Houston and 16 other state institutions of higher education suffered a major blow when the ad valorem tax was effectively repealed by the 66th Legislature.

We had high hopes that the plight of the University of Houston and other institutions which had been funded by the ad valorem tax would be recognized by the 67th Legislature, and that alternative means of funding our needs would be developed. Unfortunately, these hopes proved to be futile. In spite of our best efforts it was impossible to build a consensus in support of alternative programs.

When the special session of the legislature was convened, it was hoped that the governor would ask the legislature to address this important question. Unfortunately, the item was not placed on the agenda. Even though some bills were introduced in one house of the legislature, no relief was provided.

We remain in a posture, therefore, where some institutions of higher education in our state are blessed with an abundance of resources which can be used for capital construction, building renovation, and academic enrichment while others, which have been authorized by the State to offer the same degree programs, are unable to obtain comparable funding for this purpose.

It is our belief that when the State authorizes two or more institutions to offer the same degree programs, it incurs the responsibility to provide comparable resources to those institutions in order that all young men and women pursuing the same programs of study shall have equal educational opportunities.

The administration and the Board of Regents of this university have a responsibility to assure that our students receive educational opportunities equivalent to those offered by other institutions of higher education authorized to offer the same degree programs by the State. It is an unfortunate fact that, since no substitute has been provided for the ad valorem funds, we can no longer assure students at the University of Houston that they will receive equitable treatment.

This administration, this Board, the alumni, the faculty, the staff, and the students of the University of Houston System and, indeed, the people of Houston, must take note of the inequities that exist and seek relief. There are several alternatives which should be considered.

First, we could wait patiently in the hope that inequities in the funding of higher education for young men and women of this state will be removed by the legislature. I am firmly convinced that this will not be accomplished unless stronger public support to this end is developed.

*Continued on page 3*