

Comprehensive Standard 3.11.3

The institution operates and maintains physical facilities, both on and off campus, that appropriately serve the needs of the institution's educational programs, support services, and other mission-related activities.

Compliance Non-Compliance

Proof/Explanation:

The Facilities and Business Services office of Tennessee Technological University maintains and operates the facilities of the University that serve the needs of its educational programs, support services, and other key activities of its mission, providing a healthy and safe environment for learning while sustaining a high quality of life on campus and at off-campus facilities.

Physical Facilities

The University operates and maintains facilities at the main campus, several off-campus agricultural facilities (1), and the Appalachian Center for Craft (2), and holds other undeveloped land. The main campus is located in Cookeville, Tennessee, and consists of 98 academic and administrative buildings on 238 acres. The TTU Farm consists of 300 acres approximately one mile from the main campus and is used for various educational and regional activities and includes the multi-purpose Hyder-Burks Pavilion. The Craft Center consists of 180 acres located near the Center Hill Reservoir 25 miles west of Cookeville and is used for various educational, cultural, and craft activities. Another 405 acres of mostly undeveloped land known as the Austin Property is utilized by the Biology Department for teaching and research.

In Fall 2008, a new \$24 million, 67,500-square-foot building was completed on the south end of campus to house the TTU Whitson-Hester School of Nursing (3). The new facility has allowed enrollment in the program to double from its previous size and includes a \$1 million, 60-station computer lab, three patient care labs that replicate hospital settings, a fundamentals lab for teaching basic nursing skills, a women's health and pediatrics lab, a critical care lab, and a 282-seat auditorium for campus and community presentations, as well as new offices for TTU Health Services for serving students and employees.

The Millard Oakley STEM Center (4) opened in Spring 2010 in the new \$8 million, 26,000-square-foot Ray Morris Hall on the southwest edge of campus. Its flexible, innovative lab spaces, 240-seat auditorium, and virtual theatre support educational outreach and pedagogical research at all age levels in the areas of science, technology, and mathematics, encouraging interest in fields that are central to the University's mission.

Most recently, in Fall 2011 renovations were completed on the main floor of the Volpe Library, creating the 30,000-square-foot Learning Commons (5), with open-access computing and versatile study spaces, along with enhanced academic assistance and information services. The University also acquired the 22,000-square-foot building on campus that was vacated in 2010 by the Tennessee Department of Health, and the former Prescott Middle School was purchased from the county by the TTU Foundation to support University activities and provide "surge space" as needed.

TTU Campus Master Plan

The Campus Master Plan is maintained to provide direction for the future of the University's facilities. The previous plan, adopted by the Tennessee State Building Commission in 2004, was updated in 2010 with University facilities envisioned for 2015, 2020, and 2040 (6). The 2015 "Centennial Vision" reflects the mission and strategic goals of the University by integrating a new Science and Engineering Complex, improvements to athletic facilities (including the recently completed 25,000-square-foot Athletic Performance Center), and renovations to the Tech Village apartments on the west side of campus. Recommendations on the allocation of funds by the Tennessee Board of Regents for renovations and

new construction are guided directly by the Campus Master Plan. Following a revision of the THEC space utilization formula, a space analysis was conducted in 2009, the report from which is included in the Master Plan update. As part of the Master Plan update, several classroom and laboratory buildings were surveyed by outside consultants for suitability for today's learning and instruction environments (7). As a direct result of the survey, a capital project was developed to address issues identified. Six buildings (Henderson, Farr, Bartoo, Kittrell, Brown, and Pennebaker) were identified for state funding, addressing the following issues: utility systems, sprinkler systems, life safety issues, fire protection, audio/visual systems, finishes (floors, walls, ceilings), windows, acoustics, restrooms, and office spaces. The funding cycle is anticipated to last 5-8 years, depending on available state resources and appropriations, and should markedly improve teaching and learning environments in all renovated buildings.

Budget Control

TTU Facilities and Business Services is responsible for the coordination of budget proposals for all new renovations, construction, and major maintenance projects with the TBR. An annual budget proposal (8) is a collective effort by faculty, staff, and administrators to prioritize projects based on the Campus Master Plan in supporting the University's mission and strategic goals.

Maintenance Procedures

TTU Facilities and Business Services assigns University employees and contracts with service providers to maintain physical facilities. A computerized system develops and tracks maintenance functions. Maintenance personnel prioritize work orders on a daily basis. The system produces reports tracking all outstanding work orders. Campus access and energy maintenance are coordinated with class schedules to avoid conflict with peak activity around the University, especially within teaching areas. Emergency requests are communicated via telephone or by electronic submission to TTU Facilities and are expedited on a highest-priority basis.

Renovation and Capital Improvements

All renovation projects are planned and designed with direct involvement of users of the space. TTU Facilities personnel complete minor renovation projects, while major renovation projects are designed by independent architectural/engineering firms and awarded on the basis of outside contractor bids. The Tennessee State Building Commission must also approve major projects. Specific projects are classified as major when the cost is equal to or greater than \$100,000; likewise, small renovations made in one building within any six-month time frame are considered a major project if the cost amounts to \$100,000 or greater. TBR annually evaluates the need for major renovations and construction based on an analysis of available space compared to established standards. When the Tennessee State Building Commission approves capital improvements, an independent design firm works with a University committee to ensure the needs of the users are met. Four such projects completed since 2005 include Ray Morris Hall (site of the Millard Oakley STEM Center); the Nursing Building; a 338-bed residence hall, New Hall North; and the 25,000-square-foot Athletics Performance Center.

Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services works with Facilities, Residential Life, Dining Services, and other offices including Student Affairs to improve accessibility for students with disabilities (9). Accessibility issues are addressed during the design process for all renovation and new construction projects. Elevators have been installed in almost every academic building. Additionally, a 2010 code compliance update was done on elevators campus-wide for safety features and controls. Power assisted doors have been installed in all campus buildings, and curb cuts have been made throughout the campus. In each of the two most recently constructed residence halls, 17 units have ADA-accessible living quarters. The recently completed Tech Village West Apartment renovations included a fully compliant ADA apartment in each building.

Residential Facilities

The University operates residence halls and family/non-traditional housing apartments (10). All of these units are inspected and maintained on an annual basis. Handicapped-accessible units are available in three residence halls. Through the use of resident assistants, assistant coordinators (TTU Residential Life employees who live in the halls), and on-call Facilities personnel, maintenance is available around the

clock. The housing staff has periodic meetings with residents, and student input is invited in the planning of maintenance and renovations. The housing staff conducts an annual "Quality of Life" survey. In the 2011 survey of residential students, 96 percent of respondents reported feeling safe in the residence halls and on campus generally. As part of the residential life master plan, the University recently opened a new 338-bed traditional freshman residence hall (New Hall North). In Fall 2010, two Learning Villages were established in the most recently constructed residence halls (New Hall South and New Hall North), and two more opened in Fall 2011 (Crawford Hall and Maddux/McCord Halls). In the next several years, Learning Villages will be established in every residence hall on campus, creating a stronger sense of community and responsibility for the use of residential space.

Recreational Facilities

The University offers several facilities that are available for use by students, faculty, staff, and the extended University community. The Memorial Gym is used for intramurals and houses two gyms and a pool. The Hooper Eblen Center has one main gymnasium and a walking area. Indoor and outdoor tennis courts are available. The outdoor intramural complex, located beside the Fitness Center facility, has three softball fields and four football/soccer fields. The intramural sports program also offers a large array of activities to serve the diverse student, faculty, and staff population. The Fitness Center (11) is available for all students, staff, alumni, and paying guests, with a wide variety of facilities and programs to promote health and wellness.

Dining Service Facilities

Dining Services (12), housed in the Roaden University Center, is contracted to Chartwells College and University Dining Services. On-campus facilities include the Swoops Food Court, the Roaden University Center Marketplace, and Outtakes locations in McCord Hall and the Fitness Center. Swoops Food Court includes Backyard Burgers, Mondo Subs, Fresh Fusion Salads, and a periodically rotating-cuisine area. The Marketplace includes a wide variety of buffet and a la carte options. Outtakes is TTU's on-campus retail store brand, focused on "Quick Cuisine" and convenience offerings in a market-style environment. A Starbucks Coffee shop is housed on the ground floor. The New Hall North residence hall features Papa John's Pizza and Grillnation burgers, as well as the Crav'n's salad and sandwich counter. In Fall 2011, an Au Bon Pain café opened on the main floor of the Volpe Library as part of the Library Commons renovation.

Information Technology Facilities

The University has a number of student computer labs within different departments across campus (13). Clement Hall, which houses Information Technology Services, has several labs for use by students, faculty, and staff to support curricular activities and promote continual learning of new technologies. An all-hours PC lab is available for student use in Henderson Hall. A campus-wide upgrade to the wired and wireless computer network has substantially improved internet access within the TTU campus and substantially expands the capacity for off-campus access for students and faculty in online courses and remote learning sites.

Supporting Documentation:

- 1: http://www.tntech.edu/files/sacscoc/compliance/Agricultural_facilities.pdf
- 2: http://www.tntech.edu/files/sacscoc/compliance/Craft_Center_summary.pdf
- 3: <http://www.tntech.edu/nursing/about/>
- 4: <http://www.tntech.edu/stem/facility/>
- 5: <http://www2.tntech.edu/library/learningCommons/index.asp>
- 6: <http://www.tntech.edu/files/strategicplanning/Planning/masterplanbooklet.pdf>
- 7: http://www.tntech.edu/files/sacscoc/compliance/TTU_Six_Academic_Bldgs_May_2010.pdf

- 8: http://www.tntech.edu/files/sacscoc/compliance/TTU_Budget_Analysis_July_2011-12.pdf
- 9: <http://www.tntech.edu/disability/home/>
- 10: <http://www.tntech.edu/reslife/home/>
- 11: <http://www.tntech.edu/recreation/home/>
- 12: <http://www.dineoncampus.com/ttu/>
- 13: http://www.tntech.edu/files/sacscoc/compliance/TTU_PC_Labs.pdf