

Austin Community College Compliance Certification Response (5th Year Interim Report)

Austin Community College 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.

ACC currently operates seven comprehensive campuses in its service area, offering day, evening, and weekend classes. In addition, it operates nine centers in the Service Area (at high schools in Bastrop, Fredericksburg, Buda, Georgetown, Leander, Lockhart, Round Rock Higher Education Center, and at two locations in San Marcos). Classes are also offered at the Highland Business Center. The college's administrative functions are located at the Highland Business Center and the Service Center.

In spring 2007, a new building opened at the Cypress Creek Campus; the original building at Cypress Creek was then renovated, opening in the fall semester. ACC has also begun a project to construct a new parking garage at Rio Grande Campus and another project to renovate the old Gymnasium Building to provide faculty offices and classrooms at that campus. The conversion of the Gymnasium Building is intended to provide space to allow faculty to relocate from leased offices, and to allow some existing campus operations to relocate from existing space as renovations occur at the Rio Grande Campus.

Austin Community College considers routine, preventive, and deferred maintenance a priority, and doubled the district-wide maintenance budget for FY08 and FY09. The maintenance department strives to complete routine and preventative maintenance work orders within two working days and tracks its achievement of this goal on an on-going basis.

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The College established its deferred maintenance program to address building systems that have exceeded their life expectancy. ACC conducted a facilities audit in 2003, with the assistance of [3D/I Consulting\[1\]](#). The audit resulted in a list of maintenance deficiencies that formed the basis for the College's Deferred Maintenance (DM) plan. Maintenance staff remove deficiencies from the list as they are repaired and add deficiencies as systems reach the end of their useful life or are judged to require significant repair. Current DM list categories include mechanical systems, electrical systems, flooring, exterior restorations, parking lots and roadways, detention ponds, and roofing systems. The Director of Buildings and Grounds apportions monies for deferred maintenance projects each year as part of the college's budget process. Of the six million dollars in the Facilities Improvement Budget, approximately \$2 million goes to fund deferred maintenance. The remaining monies are divided among capital renewal; building code compliance; life, safety, and security; accessibility; and several other smaller dollar categories.

ACC's benchmark data, comparing it to other Texas and national community colleges, continues to highlight the facts that the college has higher utilization rates of instructional spaces, but less space to support college operations, and lower tax support than other comparable institutions. The College is aware of the challenges this high rate of space utilization presents to future growth, college support operations, parking and proper maintenance. To help the College address these challenges, ACC engaged [Sasaki Associates\[2\]](#) to develop a [Facilities Master Plan\[3\]](#) that was completed in January 2007. Staff recommendations based on this report are incorporated into the ACC Master Plan. In addition, for new construction activities, such as the planning for the new Round Rock

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Campus, ACC is employing the space per student guidelines recommended in the Facilities Master Plan.

To assess student satisfaction with various college services, in the spring of 2008, ACC administered a web-based version of the [Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory\[4\]](#). The survey asks several facilities-related questions. ACC student satisfaction was significantly higher than a national comparison group on the following questions: “Parking lots are well lighted and secure;” “Computer labs are adequate and accessible;” “The equipment in the lab facilities is kept up to date;” and “On the whole, the campus is well-maintained.” The college, however, scored significantly lower in student satisfaction on the question: “The amount of student parking space on campus is adequate.”

Round Rock Higher Education Center

Since fall 2005, ACC has operated under a partnership with Texas State University, San Marcos (TSU) to offer classes at the [Round Rock Higher Education Center\[5\]](#) (RRHEC). ACC leases space in the building, which is owned by TSU. According to the Memorandum of Understanding, Texas State is responsible for provision of all facilities maintenance services at the RRHEC, such as building maintenance, custodial services, grounds maintenance, safety, security, and utilities. The MOU clearly spells out the space and services that ACC is entitled to based on the agreement with Texas State University.