

KU facilities planned for future

K. Univ of K. Bldgs + Grounds
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The fuel shortage, the environment, and access for physically-handicapped persons will be major considerations in construction planning over the next 10 years Max

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Lucas said that combining these factors was necessary, but that they made expansion more difficult.

"We must provide an educational facility in which people can effectively study and work," he said.

"At the same time, we must face the environmental facts of life."

Responding to the challenge of natural gas shortages and rising prices, the University is working to end its dependence on natural gas, Lucas said. A steam heating plant that would convert solid waste into fuel to heat campus buildings is under consideration.

LUCAS SAID THAT THE process, now being studied by University officials, would have the additional effect of disposing of waste material at the expense of the environment.

"The construction of the plant depends on the results of the study, but we are optimistic," Lucas said.

Another major consideration in future construction will be accessibility to persons with physical disabilities.

Lucas pointed to the recent installation of elevators, restrooms and curb cuts as part

of a long-range plan to remove architectural barriers to physically handicapped persons.

"We are in much better shape than many other campuses, but it is a continual process," he said.

THE OFFICE of Physical Planning is now working on a three-year plan to improve current facilities to insure compliance with HEW regulations."

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) has issued new regulations stating that all new and existing buildings must be accessible to persons with disabilities or offer alternate facilities that are accessible. Failure to comply would cut funding to the negligent institution.

As part of a long-range landscaping plan to maintain and improve campus beauty, some of the temporary buildings now on the main campus will be removed and relocated.

LUCAS SAID THAT removal of the temporary structures from the main campus awaits completion of buildings now under construction. The building between Green Hall and the Natural History Museum and the structure between Hoch Auditorium and Marvin Hall will be removed upon completion of the new law building and the visual arts building.

Other temporary buildings will be moved to the Nelson Environmental Tract. The tract north of Lawrence was donated by

John H. Nelson, former dean of graduate studies. It will become a research center for the study of insects and vegetation.

Lucas said that West Campus would continue to develop as a service and research area for the University. He said that in the near future the Department of Buildings and Grounds would completely relocate west of Iowa Street.

"THIS WOULD ENTAIL construction of a major B and G complex with a garage, service area and work spaces for their various skills," Lucas said.

He also said that some of the temporary buildings now on the main campus would be removed and relocated in the new B and G complex.

The land on which the temporary buildings now stand will be returned to its original conditions, he said, as part of the campus beautification plan.

Construction of benches at various sites on campus this year is another segment of the plan, which will emphasize convenience and safety in addition to beauty, Lucas said.

LUCAS ADDED THAT bicycle paths or lanes are also being considered but are not an immediate priority.

Parking problems, however, are a priority, Lucas said. He said that the University has planned a two-level parking garage near 11th and Indiana streets to alleviate the crowding.