

Physical Resources

The physical plant is one of Cottey's greatest assets--not simply because it meets the needs of students and employees, but because it provides an appealing environment in which to work and live. The P.E.O. Sisterhood owns the buildings and grounds of Cottey College. The College uses these facilities rent-free and is responsible for their annual maintenance. Over the past ten years, two campus master plans have been completed to guide the development of campus facilities.

Physical Plant

Thirteen buildings occupy the main campus. Cottey owns two residential homes: President's house and Ewing House (a rental property). The College also owns a large historic home on the south edge of the campus, renovated to house the Center for Women's Leadership. B.I.L. Lodge, one mile south of campus, is used for student gatherings, special faculty sessions, administrative retreats, and other events. There are about 30 acres on the main campus and 33 acres at the Lodge. With the exception of the Chapel, Neale Hall, P.E.O. Hall, and Reeves Hall, all buildings are accessible for the physically impaired. (See Appendix 8-A for a physical plant maintenance summary prepared for the 2001 Campus Master Plan.) Maintenance and repairs are made on a regular basis using the Cottey College Building Fund.

The newest building on the main campus is the Rubie Burton Academic Center, comprised of Alumnae Hall and Grantham Hall (the former a full renovation of the old Academic Building). The Academic Center totals

76,500 gross square feet of floor space. Its construction was the result of a major fund-raising campaign with the P.E.O. Sisterhood and College alumnae.

The 1999 completion of the Academic Center increased science space more than twofold, with overall academic space expanded by 40 percent. The building features new furnishings and state-of-the-art equipment. Classroom size ranges from student capacity of 10 to 58, including two tiered classrooms, two computer labs, three smart classrooms, and a language lab. The renovation of Alumnae Hall (formerly the Academic Building) permitted academic support offices--academic affairs, academic records, institutional research, and the academic assistance center--to relocate near where faculty and students work. It is no exaggeration to say the Academic Center gave the campus a whole new look and feel.

In addition to the Academic Center, notable improvements to the College's physical plant since the 1993 self-study include:

- Replaced air-conditioning system and carpeting, and renovated elevator in the Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library.
- Constructed gazebos outside Main Hall, P.E.O. Hall, and Robertson Hall to be used as smoking areas to maintain buildings as smoke-free environments.
- Acquired a large historic home south of campus, renovated and developed as the Center for Women's Leadership.
- Purchased property on the north and south perimeters of campus to improve safety and aesthetics, and to allow for future expansion.
- Created an esplanade running from the Academic Center to Robertson Hall.
- Installed new campus lighting and a call system with four emergency telephones in strategic areas on campus.
- Upgraded underground heating and cooling systems for most buildings, permitting more cost-effective building environments.
- Renovated eight of 34 residence hall bathrooms; making two of them handicap accessible.
- Installed air-conditioning in Robertson Hall.
- Installed a handicap accessible front entrance to Robertson Hall, and replaced the elevator in Robertson Hall.
- Installed a new telephone system, with computerized voice mail for offices and student rooms.

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- Replaced roofs on all three residence halls, Chapel, Library, parts of Hinkhouse Center, and President's House.
 - Completed a chilled water loop air-conditioning system of the north side of campus for Main Hall and the Center for the Arts.

The renovation of Main Hall, the highest priority of the 2001 campus master plan--prepared by HNTB Architects Engineers Planners and approved by the trustees--was completed in fall 2002. (A copy of the 2001 Campus Master Plan is available in the Resource Room.)

Security and Safety

Cottey's location on the edge of a small community provides a campus environment free from some of the safety concerns faced by other campuses; however, the security of faculty, staff, and students and the buildings they live and work in is important. The campus is monitored by a computerized keycard system that allows only authorized people into buildings when they are locked. The centralized system tracks entrances and exits to buildings as well as alerting security staff when a door is left open. Physical plant personnel provide security services. Regular rounds are conducted during evening and night hours, but security personnel do not require specialized training, nor do they carry firearms.

Hall staff and security personnel work well with local emergency agencies--police, fire, and ambulance. The physical plant director, who supervises campus safety, meets regularly with the chief of police, and the fire department conducts periodic inspections. The fire department has keys to campus buildings.

Safety is also a priority at Cottey. The main safety concern is related to Austin Boulevard/US Highway 54, a four-lane highway that runs through the center of the campus. There is a pedestrian-activated light at College Street, and a crosswalk with a flashing yellow light located on Austin in line with the Chapel. New boundary signage was installed in fall 2001 to alert drivers to campus borders and encourage safety for pedestrians using these

lights. In 1998, approximately \$1 million was spent to improve campus walkways and exterior lighting on campus, including those areas that border Austin.

The College has worked with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) for several years to address pedestrian safety. The College received tentative approval from MoDOT to remove the flashing yellow light at the Chapel, and to move the pedestrian-activated stoplight from its location at South College Street about one-half block west to between Reeves Hall on the south side of campus and P.E.O. Hall on the north. The new location for the stoplight was selected after completion of a traffic study by HNTB architects. A group of residents in the neighborhood surrounding South College Street was invited to a meeting in December 2000 and given the opportunity to provide input on the plan.

Approval from the state to move the light was contingent upon the College paying the associated costs and endorsement by the Nevada City Council. Following a presentation of the proposal at a city council meeting in June 2001, controversy arose among the residents of the neighborhood south of campus. The neighbors use the convenience of the light to make a safe left turn onto Austin Boulevard/US 54, and do not want it moved. Plans to move the light were initially approved by the City Council but withdrawn after complaints from residents.

Talks continue with MoDOT to improve safety in this area. A new pedestrian-activated flashing yellow light over all four lanes of the highway will replace the existing flashing yellow light between P.E.O. and the Chapel in the near future. The current light is difficult to see from all four lanes since it is placed next to the exterior lane.

Safety in the academic areas is of utmost importance. An academic safety officer ensures that academic affairs are conducted safely and also functions as the chemical hygiene officer monitoring labs for compliance with

national safety standards for use of chemicals and equipment. The College is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

An Academic Safety Manual and Chemical Hygiene Plan with a specific set of safety rules is revised and updated periodically. Science and art faculty train students in and enforce safe laboratory practices. The academic safety officer addresses concerns or needs that arise.

Science laboratories are equipped with showers, eyewashes, first-aid supplies, fire extinguishers, and fire blankets. Students in the science laboratories are required to wear safety goggles when working with chemicals. Safety goggles are also required in the art department when students and faculty are working with equipment or chemicals.

The academic safety officer coordinates hazardous waste collection. Cottey contracts annually with Environmental Operations, Inc., for the proper management and final disposition of outdated chemicals and hazardous waste generated during the academic year. The scope of their work includes waste material profiling and characterization, packaging, labeling, manifest preparation, transportation disposal, and disposal documentation. The College maintains active registration with the State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources and has been assigned permanent generator and Environmental Protection Agency identification numbers. For several years, Cottey was classified as a Small Quantity Generator due to removal of old and unnecessary chemicals each year. Since 1995, the amount of hazardous materials being disposed of annually has decreased because the College removes fewer and fewer old chemicals. In 2000, our status changed to a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator.

The academic safety budget line funds disposal of hazardous waste materials and some supplies (e.g., respirators, goggles, first-aid supplies). Some safety supplies are purchased using funds from department supply accounts. More expensive safety equipment such as explosion-proof

refrigerators and freezers, chemical storage cabinets, and safety mats required in the academic area have been purchased using end-of-year equipment funds.

There is also an administrative safety officer, who works with the academic safety officer, to ensure overall campus safety. Periodic administrative safety training addresses issues such as proper lifting techniques and the handling of hazardous materials.

