

August 18, 2006

## Comments and Suggestions Submitted via the Campus Environment Suggestions Box

Thank you very much for all your comments and suggestions submitted via the Campus Environment Suggestions Box.

The following is a summary of the comments received between January 19, 2006, when the box was set up, and June 2006.

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[Important News]

The suggestion received on June 18 headed “Request for a bench near Handai Slope” has been treated as a health matter, and a temporary bench has been installed as an emergency measure. We will consider what sort of spaces to sit and rest are required on Handai Slope, and take appropriate measures if necessary. However, we are concerned that we may not fully understand what the commenter wants to convey purely on the basis of the written comment submitted. If you are the person who made this suggestion, please do get in touch so we can ask you about it in a little more detail.



Photograph: Temporary bench

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#### ◆ Comments and Suggestions Report ◆

##### I. Comments and Suggestions about Facilities

(1) A total of 24 comments and suggestions were received concerning the design of the campus and facilities, covering the following areas.

(a) Barrier-free access: Requests for improved access at campus entrances and to individual buildings (four suggestions)

- Suggestions were made concerning barrier-free access to a welfare facility (the Co-op) on the Toyonaka Campus, the entrance next to the grounds, and Machikaneyama Facility. These will be taken into consideration.

(b) Symbols: Requests concerning campus symbols (four suggestions)

- The suggestion was made to improve the ginkgo avenues that are one of the symbols of Osaka University. The Campus Master Plan includes a Green Design master plan as the next plan to be formulated, and the intention is to survey and analyze the present and historical statuses of greenery on campus and summarize how best to take the green spaces on each campus forward into the future. The ginkgo avenues will also be maintained and continued as symbolic streets on both the Suita and Toyonaka campuses.

- Rather than buildings (such as a clock tower) or specially designed symbols, Osaka University is aiming to make the campus scenery as attractive as possible to act as symbolic spaces. On the

Toyonaka Campus, we are considering creating a symbolic space extending from Machikaneyama to Nakayama Pond, Osaka University Hall, the open space beside the Student Service & Union, the Main Street, and the East Entrance. On the Suita Campus, we are currently undertaking work to improve the Administration Bureau promenade with the aim of making the area around the East-West Street roundabout into a symbolic space. Please see the Osaka University Campus Master Plan (September 13, 2005) for details.

(c) Design: Suggestions and questions about facilities design (four suggestions)

- The suggestion was made of giving all the buildings a consistent facade, but we do not think that making all the buildings resemble each other externally would create a campus with a unified feel. Comparing a campus to a town, a beautiful townscape is formed by the harmony between the individual characters of its buildings and streets, and our goal is to create a highly individual, attractive campus by understanding the distinctive characteristics, spatial appearance, and resources of the campuses that can be further developed as well as their problem areas and formulating an improvement plan. Please see the Osaka University Campus Master Plan (September 13, 2005) for details.

- The question was asked as to whether the discoloration of the stone plaque (engraved with the name and philosophy of Osaka University) at the Machikaneyama Ishibashi entrance to the Toyonaka Campus so that it appears cracked is intentional or not. This is in fact intentional. The plaque is made from Shodoshima granite, the same stone used for the newly installed landscaping wall. This particular type of granite is known as “rusty white” because the iron components in the white stone turn partly rusty. Our intention is for the contrast of different colors and textures to impart a sense of maturity resulting from the process of natural changes over time (aging), symbolizing the nature of the mutual interdependence between the natural world and the human agency of the people who have worked in the *satoyama* environment of Machikaneyama over the years.

- The comment was made that although the work on the paving stones of the Handai Slope in the Toyonaka Campus has freshened up its appearance, they are easy to trip on. The objective of the work on Handai Slope was to redesign it to be suitably attractive and welcoming as the main entrance to Osaka University, making the most of the atmosphere and potential of the Machikaneyama area, which contains both a *satoyama* environment and historical and cultural assets. Stone was used as a paving material both to express the weight of history and to create an environment that blends in with the natural surroundings of Machikaneyama. The stone paving is a little more uneven than the asphalt paving that it replaced, but the joints between the paving stones

have been kept shallow in the attempt to minimize surface unevenness.

(d) Student environment: Specific requests for equipment in facilities (four suggestions)

- Comments were received on subjects including toilet fittings and the brightness of lighting, and these will be taken into consideration.

(e) Infrastructure: Suggestions about the routes of campus roads and related matters (three suggestions)

- Comments were received on subjects including the roads leading to the Toyonaka Campus, and these will be taken into consideration.

(f) Dilapidation: Suggestions for rebuilding dilapidated buildings (two suggestions)

- Comments were received on the subject of measures to deal with the dilapidation of buildings. The budget for building repairs is becoming tighter every year and there are many difficult aspects, but we will make every effort to proceed with the necessary repairs in a planned fashion and in such a way as to have the greatest effect on improving the overall environment.

Other suggestions were also received concerning the design of the Museum of Osaka University (two suggestions) and improvements to the area around the pond (one suggestion).

(2) Maintenance management and conservation: Two requests were received for measures to be taken to improve the smell from gutters at the side of the road and water droplets from cooling towers, and these were handled appropriately.

(3) A total of 13 comments were received regarding transport, relating to the subjects listed below, and these will be taken into consideration.

(a) Safety: Suggestions for on-campus traffic safety measures (six suggestions)

(b) Restrictions on campus entry: Suggestions related to restricting entry to the campuses (three suggestions)

(c) Parking lots: Suggestions related to parking lots (two suggestions)

(d) Bicycle parking: Suggestions related to on-campus bicycle parking (two suggestions)

(4) We also received comments on other matters such as pharmaceutical management and pointing out a broken link to the Suggestions Box web page. Thank you very much.

II. Comments on Division Management

In addition to comments on the campus environment and facilities, we also received numerous other management-related comments on matters such as the running of school buses, facilities usage, and how matters are dealt with by student services in individual divisions. We have reported those comments to the relevant divisions for their future consideration.

◆ Postscript ◆

We will continue to publish reports on the comments submitted to the Campus Environment Suggestions Box. We were not able to include all the comments and suggestions received so far in this report, but hope to cover them in future reports.

Please keep those comments and suggestions coming!

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