Survey Goals:
As part of American University in Cairo’s Next 100 Campus Plan, the Campus Plan Team conducted an institutional-wide survey, asking students, faculty, staff and recent Alumni about their impressions and ideas for the future of the AUC New Cairo campus and surrounding neighborhood. The Campus Plan will establish a framework for addressing short- and long-term space needs and program aspirations of the university, and an important step in creating that framework is an inclusive and participatory community engagement process. The survey results described below will help the Campus Plan Team plan for a future that aligns with the goals and visions of the AUC community.

Sample Size and Methodology:
The survey was distributed by the AUC Office of Strategic Management and Institutional Effectiveness (SMIE) in May 2020 to all AUC graduate and undergraduate students, faculty and staff working in the New Cairo campus, and AUC alumni who graduated within the last two years (see Table 1 for distribution and response rates).

The survey was hosted on SurveyMonkey® software, and included ten closed-ended, multiple-choice questions, with options to write in answers not listed, and one open-ended question. In addition to the Survey Monkey questions, each recipient was given an opportunity to answer 5 bonus questions using Beyer Blinder Belle’s online mapping tool, which allows respondents to click on a geographical location within the AUC campus, providing a spatial reply to each question. The mapping tool also allows respondents make written comments about their answer selection. This report includes a selection of open-ended comments made by respondents in the survey, and all responses from the closed-ended and multiple-choice questions.

Table 1. AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey Distribution and Response Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Invitations sent</th>
<th>Responses received</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>6,118</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>2,662</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Response Rate</td>
<td>11,359</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

**Question 1:**
What are the most successful aspects of the physical campus that you think should be preserved and reinforced by the master plan?

**Results:**

- **22%** Walkable Campus
- **29%** Green / Open Spaces
- **18%** Unique Architecture
- **16%** Public Gatherings
- **14%** Sustainable Design
- **2%** Other Responses

Total Responses: 1,033

**Selection of open-ended responses from Question 1:**

- Flexible use of spaces (Faculty)
- Cycling options (Students and Faculty)
• Good lighting in the evening (Staff)
• Accessibility (Staff, Alumni & Students)
• Facilities such as food, technology & sports (Staff, Alumni & Students)
• Liveliness and Diversity (Staff and Students)
• Tobacco free campus (Students)
• Identity (Students & Alumni)
• Extra-curricular activity & event spaces (Staff and Students)
• Security 24/7 (Staff)

Analysis:
Green/open space was viewed by majority of respondents as the most successful aspect of the physical campus, and walkability of the campus was second. Third, fourth and fifth were unique architecture, public gathering activities and spaces, and sustainable design. The results emphasize the importance of spaces that are of human scale, promoting activities where people can engage with one another. The results also reflect a desire for the campus to act as more than just a place to study and work, as well as a desire the campus to be model of sustainable development that is largely absent from the surrounding New Cairo community. In the "other responses", accessibility and available facilities were the frequently mentioned points.
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

Question 2:
What do you see as the top two challenges for the campus?

Results:

- **24%** Enhancing Student Life
- **26%** Academic Space Needs
- **17%** Connections to the Surrounding Neighborhood
- **21%** Climate Change / Sustainability
- **07%** Safety / Security
- **06%** Other Responses

Total Responses: 1,025

Selection of open-ended responses from Question 2:

- Lack of or poorly designed event spaces
- Poor food options (affordable & healthy)
Not enough social spaces  
Disconnection from Egypt culture, city of Cairo and city of New Cairo, and at the campus scale, disconnection between departments and buildings.  
Too much bureaucracy  
Parking Spaces  
Accessibility to public transportation, too much security at gates and slow processing of cars, and lack of access to campus  
Family-friendliness  
Acoustics (enhancing acoustics and controlling noise)  
Enhancing Staff and faculty experience  
Poor way finding  
Long travel distance creates a need for more mobility options, such as cycling  
Climate regulation (indoor and outdoor): ventilation - daylight - shade  
Upgrade and expand sports facilities  
Too many cats  
Diverse and ergonomic seating options  
Adapting to a post pandemic environment  
Healthily environments  

Analysis:  
The top challenge perceived by the different users was meeting academic space needs and enhancing student life. Climate change and sustainability was also important to respondents, showing awareness of the AUC population to issues of global and local environments. Connection to surrounding communities was also ranked highly, and this issue was mentioned by many respondents under “other comments”. These disconnections were both on a micro scale and a macro scale. At the macro scale, there was a lack of connection expressed between the New Cairo campus and the cities of both New Cairo and Cairo, physically, programatically and culturally. Over securitization of the campus was mentioned as a source of disconnection between the New Cairo campus and the surrounding urban fabric. At the scale of the campus itself (micro), respondents discussed the locations of buildings (dispersed and distant from one another) caused a lack of interaction across Academic Schools, disciplines, and departments. The far distances create mobility challenges, calling for more active mobility options other than walking, such as cycling, skating (which was previously used, but then banned) or internal shuttle bus services.
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

**Question 3:**
What do you think would most improve your experience on campus?

**Results:**

- **24%** Places to Work or Study
- **16%** Places to Socialize
- **16%** Places to Eat and Shop
- **15%** Night / Weekend activities
- **05%** Housing On-Campus
- **07%** Places to Go Off-Campus
- **13%** Places for Academic Teaching and Research
- **03%** Other Responses

Total Responses: 1,027
Selection of open-ended responses from Question 3:

- Increase and upgrade event spaces & meeting halls
- Better facilities for virtual connection and advanced technology
- Improve campus functionality and infrastructure
- More and better public transportation options
- Cat-free social and outdoor spaces
- Parking (more spaces, shaded, free of charge, convenient)
- Create an inclusive and connected campus
- Better acoustics and more control over acoustics
- More food options
- Diverse spaces for work/ study/ relaxation/ social interaction
- Better connection to neighbors
- Improved accessibility (disabled accessibility for access to campus gates and entrances)
- Better way finding within and between buildings
- Better mobility across campus
- More green areas

Analysis:
The results show that places of work and study are the ones that people demand the most improvement in, with places to socialize, eat and shop coming in second. There were numerous other responses suggesting more diverse and multi-functional environments that would host a range of activity types from work, to study and socialize or relax, indicates the diversity of space needs among users, and suggests that adaptable spaces are in demand. More and better night/ weekend activities was also highly desired by respondents, indicating that the AUC community is interested in having a campus that is active 24/7, building opportunities for engagement within the AUC community and between AUC and the larger New Cairo and Cairo communities.
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

Question 4:
Which of the following features are most important to you when spending time in a campus open space, like a plaza or garden?

Results:

- **Greenery / Plantings** 22%
- **Shelter from Sun or Rain** 21%
- **Seating, Furniture, or Equipment** 18%
- **Size of Space** 04%
- **Quiet/Get-away** 12%
- **Amenities** (such as food/beverages/programs/services) 11%
- **Proximity** (near my house/classes/office/parking lot) 08%
- **It's where my friends/colleagues always meet** 05%
- **Other Responses** 01%

Total Responses: 1,032

Selection of open-ended responses from Question 4:

- Less congested areas, with more “breathing room” spaces available when not in class or work (Faculty & students)
• Better adaptability & ergonomics of spaces (Faculty & students)
• Smoking (Alumni)
• Climate Regulation (Students)

Analysis:
When considering the design of open space, greenery, and landscape as well as shelter from sun/ rain came were most important to respondents. Other important issues included availability of seating, furniture and equipment (eg. electricity), spaces that are quiet and spaces with food and beverage or other programs available, were also important characteristic of open space. The lowest votes were for “It’s where my friends/ colleagues always meet”. This could indicate that existing open spaces are associated based on their activities and programs, more than use by a specific group.
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

**Question 5:**
In order of priority, what factors do you consider to be most important when planning for additional on-campus student residences?

**Results:**

16 pts Common spaces to gather and socialize

17 pts Spaces for individual or group study

20 pts Security and safety

17 pts Flexibility of living
  (dorm size and style, number of residents per unit, etc.)

19 pts Affordability of living on-campus

14 pts Location of new housing
  (proximity to classes, offices, New Cairo destinations)

10 pts Availability of parking

Total Responses: 956

- Students
- Faculty
- Alumni
- Staff
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

Question 6:
If there are any other important features to you that were not mentioned in the previous question, please state them here.

Selection of open-ended responses from Question 6:

- Play area
- The possibility of housing for married couples
- There is a lack of spaces to work on campus that are quiet and well-equipped.
- I believe we can benefit a lot from the roof, instead of being a dead area, it can acquire a lot of unique social place surrounded by vegetation
- Strong WiFi Connections
- Making sure there are accessible units, and larger mixed-gender areas and availability of study rooms.
- Clinic or pharmacy
- Transportation on campus. The campus is big and it takes time to walk from a place to another
- Food outlets that are open at night. Better cafeteria like the ones in peer universities.
- Hot, nice and affordable meals for staff during the weekdays.
- Accessibility to visual impaired members of the community
- Space for staff to socialize
- The campus’s design prevents building an AUC community. There is no space to sit, talk, share ideas, and congregate that is sheltered from the sun or wind and cold.
- More parking lots, with spaces assigned to staff, and providing housing opportunities for staff too, why don’t we have a small scale compound with small houses for staff who would like to live on campus with external access for visitors.
- More cafes
- Create mixed use area throughout the campus where housing, academics, and entertainment are intermingled.
- Passive cooling strategies
- Parking spaces are the worst thing about campus
- Essentially AUC is a commuter school for students living in Cairo. This fact is often ignored.
- Properly maintained seating areas that doesn’t ruin our clothes
- Campus trolley. This would eliminate the importance of parking close.
- Industrial Parks and technical workshops.
- Please don't take away from the size of the gardens, they are so important!
- The architecture should reflect the ancient Egyptians
Question 7:
When you think of the design of the AUC campus, what two descriptive words come to mind?

Results:
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

Question 8:
How do you typically get to campus each day?

Results:

- **51%** Drive by myself
- **14%** Carpool / Get Dropped Off
- **27%** Bus / Shuttle
- **05%** Walk - I live on Campus
- **03%** Walk - I live nearby
- **00%** Ride a Bicycle

Total Responses: 1,016
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

Question 9: Which gate do you most commonly use to access campus and why?

Results:

- 06% Gate 1
- 17% Gate 2
- 07% Gate 3
- 49% Gate 4
- 21% Gate 5

Total Responses: 1,015

Summary Analysis:
Gate 4 is used by nearly half of survey respondents (49%), while Gate 5 is used by 21% of respondents. This shows the southern side of campus has highest traffic flow into campus. On the northern side of campus, Gate 2 is the most popular gate, and Gates 1 & 3 are least used. It is important to note that the preferred entry gate did not vary much across user groups; for staff, Gate 2 came as the second choice then, Gate 5, and the rest of the order is the same.
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

**Question 10:**
Why do you use that gate?

**Results:**

- **48%** It's closest to my office/class.
- **19%** It's closest to the bus/shuttle stop.
- **13%** It's most convenient based on where I'm driving/walking/biking from.
- **14%** It has the most available parking spaces.
- **6%** Other Responses

Total Responses: 1,010

**Selection of open-ended responses from Question 10:**

- Scenic walk in the gardens and less crowded (Gate 2)
- Gate decided by transportation office as the AUC bus entry gate (Gate 3)
Preferred gate and reason why (Questions 9 and 10):

Summary Analysis:
Proximity to workplace and classes was the most common reason respondents entered a certain gate, accounting for 48% of total responses. Second to this reason was proximity to the bus/shuttle stop, which is located at Gate 5. Proximity to available parking spaces was the third reason for entering a specific gate, and convenience based on where people were coming from, either walking, driving or biking, was the fourth most common reason for selecting a specific gate.

Gate 4, which the most used gate was described as having a strategic location because it has access to many different buildings and destinations, such as the student residences and the campus day care. Gate 5, on the other hand, was preferred due to its proximity to commercial activities such as the Point 90 mall, as well as connection to AUC and other public buses. Gate 2 was preferred because of its scenic garden views and lack of traffic. Most respondents used a specific gate because it provided the shortest travel distance to reach their destination, while few respondents selected a specific gate because of aesthetic, traffic patterns/congestion or other reasons not related to distance to the destination.
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

**Question 11:**
When you are on campus, how often do you visit commercial establishments in New Cairo for shopping, dining, recreation, or other reasons?

**Results:**

- **10%** Daily
- **28%** Multiple times per week
- **22%** Weekly
- **14%** Once a month
- **25%** I rarely spend time in New Cairo when I am on the AUC campus

Total Responses: 995
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – Survey Monkey Questions

**Question 12:**
What services or amenities do you wish were available in the surrounding neighborhood that currently are not?

**Selection of open-ended responses from Question 11:**
- Affordable housing for non-full-time faculty
- Affordable, safe public transportation
- An affordable cultural space where students could interact with the community not just the richer class of Egypt
- An easy way to cross the street. How about pedestrian bridges?
- Availability of bus transportation to different areas
- Banks
- Barber Shop
- Bars where I can grab a glass of beer after a long day!
- Better food options
- Bicycles and bike lanes
- Bridge to Point 90 & The Spot
- Butcher's
- Car services
- community service NGOs
- Computer Shop
- co-working spaces, more coffee shops at a walkable distance
- Cultural events
- Dogs friendly places/restaurants
- dry-clean
- Eco-friendly metro/tram lines to neighborhoods around Cairo.
- Egyptian coffee shops some restaurants
- Faculty of medicine and hospital
- Fast pay for bills
- Food and coffee
- Food court. Like street 306 Maadi walk in outlets in fresh air
- Gas Station
- hypermarket.
- Governmental office for National IDs and passports issuance.
- Greenery and shade around campus
- Hairdresser
- Healthcare facilities
- Healthier food
- Hospital
- Laundry
- Less commercial spaces or establishments
- Libraries and copy centers
- MacDonalds
- Masjid and hospital
- Metro Station
- More accessible routes from campus to surrounding areas
- More green spaces, better public transit
- More healthy food options with affordable prices
- Music studio
- Park, Forest – Green space
- Pedestrian tunnel/bridge across Teseen street
- Pet Shop and Supermarket
- Pharmacies and gas stations
- Places with Wi-Fi to study off-campus
- Practical things like we had downtown - a shoe repair shop
- Walkable, shaded, rabid-dog-free place to walk
• Printing houses that cater to graphic design students
• Professional holistic wellness centres, not the commercial yoga for fitness centres.
• public green spaces, art galleries/cultural hubs, bookstores (open for reading and socializing)
• Public transportation
• Normal Egyptian style services not the ones for high class only
• Recreation services.
• Restaurant

• Short term rental apartments
• Skating. An easier way to get to campus from town
• Small grossers, fruits, and vegetables shops rather than huge Supermarkets only.
• Stationary
• Theatre
• Walkable spaces outside AUC that are clean and green/xeriscapes
AUC Next 100 Campus Plan Institutional Survey – BBB Mapping Tool Questions

Mapping Question 1, showing respondent locations and a selection of open-ended comments:
Where do you visit most off-campus?

"Whole area is new, might be nice to explore"

"Point 90 is the closest place"

"I go to the Spot Mall"

"My friends and I love Angie's"
Mapping Question 2, showing respondent locations and a selection of open-ended comments:
Where do you go to enjoy food and beverage?

"Quick, close, convenient, cheap"

"None, we bring our own food, getting food is considered a hassle..."

"L'Aroma & Library garden because of open space and garden"
Mapping Question 3, showing respondent locations and a selection of open-ended comments:
Where do you go most for leisure, relaxation, or socializing?

"I like walking through the gardens; I have done so for years since working here."

"Garden and fountain. Lovely any time of the year."

"I sit with my friends in empty classrooms, when weather is too hot..."
Mapping Question 4, showing respondent locations and a selection of open-ended comments:
What are your favorite places on campus?
Mapping Question 5, showing respondent locations and a selection of open-ended comments:

What places on campus could use the most improvement?
Mapping Question 6, showing respondent locations and a selection of open-ended comments:
What places on campus do you use most for studying and working?

“Fantastic space in the shade”

“I love sitting in the third floor of the Library...love the views and it’s quiet”

“...larger rooms and close to food outlets”