

Mayor Signs Off on BU Master Plan

Way cleared for 10-year Charles River Campus makeover

IN THE WAKE of approvals by the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the city Zoning Commission, Mayor Thomas M. Menino (Hon.'01) signed off in February on the Charles River Campus Institutional Master Plan, clearing the way for many changes on BU's Charles River Campus. And while the mayor's signing of the 10-year development plan doesn't give BU the go-ahead to build, it allows the University to begin the development process and seek architectural designs, which will require additional approval.

"It's an important milestone because the 10-year plan is a campus-level zoning approval as opposed to approval building by building," says Gary Nicksa, BU senior vice president for operations.

One of the first orders of business will be com-

missioning architects' designs for a building at 645 Commonwealth Avenue, the former site of a Burger King, which will house the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering and the College of Arts & Sciences departments of computer science and of mathematics and statistics.

"After we select an architect, we'll begin the design process, devise cost estimates," and pursue financing, including donor support, says Nicksa.

Another project mentioned in the plan would replace 30-38 Cummington Mall, a building dating from the 1930s, with a state-of-the-art research facility that could have a larger footprint and rise as high as 10 stories. Among other projects are a 60,000-square-foot addition of academic and administrative space at 130 Bay State Road; an

additional 50,000 square feet of academic space at the existing College of Communication building at 640 Comm Ave; and the modernization of Myles Standish Hall (610 Beacon St.) and Myles Standish Annex.

"Each time we do a major project we'll improve that public realm—soften the landscape and improve pedestrian and bike safety," says Nicksa. The 296-page master plan outlines a vision for a campus that started being built in the 1920s, when the University bought 15 acres between the Charles River and Commonwealth Avenue. The plan estimates the cost of proposed projects, which include improvements to "create a safer and more pedestrian-oriented campus" along Comm Ave and around the BU Bridge, at more than \$750 million.

"These are exciting projects because they don't happen very often," says Nicksa. **ss**

THE UNIVERSITY'S 2013-2023 MASTER PLAN includes a new academic building at 645 Comm Ave, the former site of a Burger King.



CANNY VOLUNTEERS



CYDNEY SCOTT

↑ Krystal Garcia (left), a research project assistant in the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine's health policy and health services research department, and Flor Amaya (SPH'13) sort canned vegetables at the Greater Boston Food Bank during the fourth annual Global Days of Service.

Garcia and Amaya were two of the thousands of alumni, faculty, staff, and students taking part in the event this year, which expanded from one day to the entire month of April to give more people an opportunity to participate. There were volunteer sites around the world, from Boston to Shoreline, Ore., and Montreal, Canada, to Sydney, Australia. Wrapping up the Global Days of Service was the Hubie Jones Lecture in Urban Health on April 27, delivered by physician Adewale Troutman, a human rights, health equity, and social justice activist and president of the American Public Health Association.

KALMAN ZABARESKY