

gateway features

YOUR

First of a two-part series featuring campus planning and development. In this issue we will give you an overall idea of projects now on the drawing boards and projects still in the "we hope" stage. In the second part of this series we will give you a special report on residences.

Theory

Before December of 1959 there was no formally appointed group for long range campus planning at the University of Alberta. Expansion was pretty much "on and ad hoc basis"—that is, individual buildings were planned and built with reference to immediate need more than to a long range plan for overall development.

This is a partial explanation of the congestion such as that in connection with the Medical-Engineering complex. Of course the tremendous upsurge in enrolment after World War II and during the fifties, intensified the planning problem.

Commenting on projects undertaken during this period, planning officer Harold Hawes said "In the light of present thinking I doubt that the new planning committee would have handled them the same way."

What then is the present planning program? In January, 1960, the newly appointed committee submitted to the Board of Governors a Schematic Diagram Showing Relative Interdependence of Faculties, which has since been the basis for campus development on a logical and orderly basis.

"The idea behind our present thinking," Mr. Hawes said, "is so simple that I am really surprised no one came up with it before."

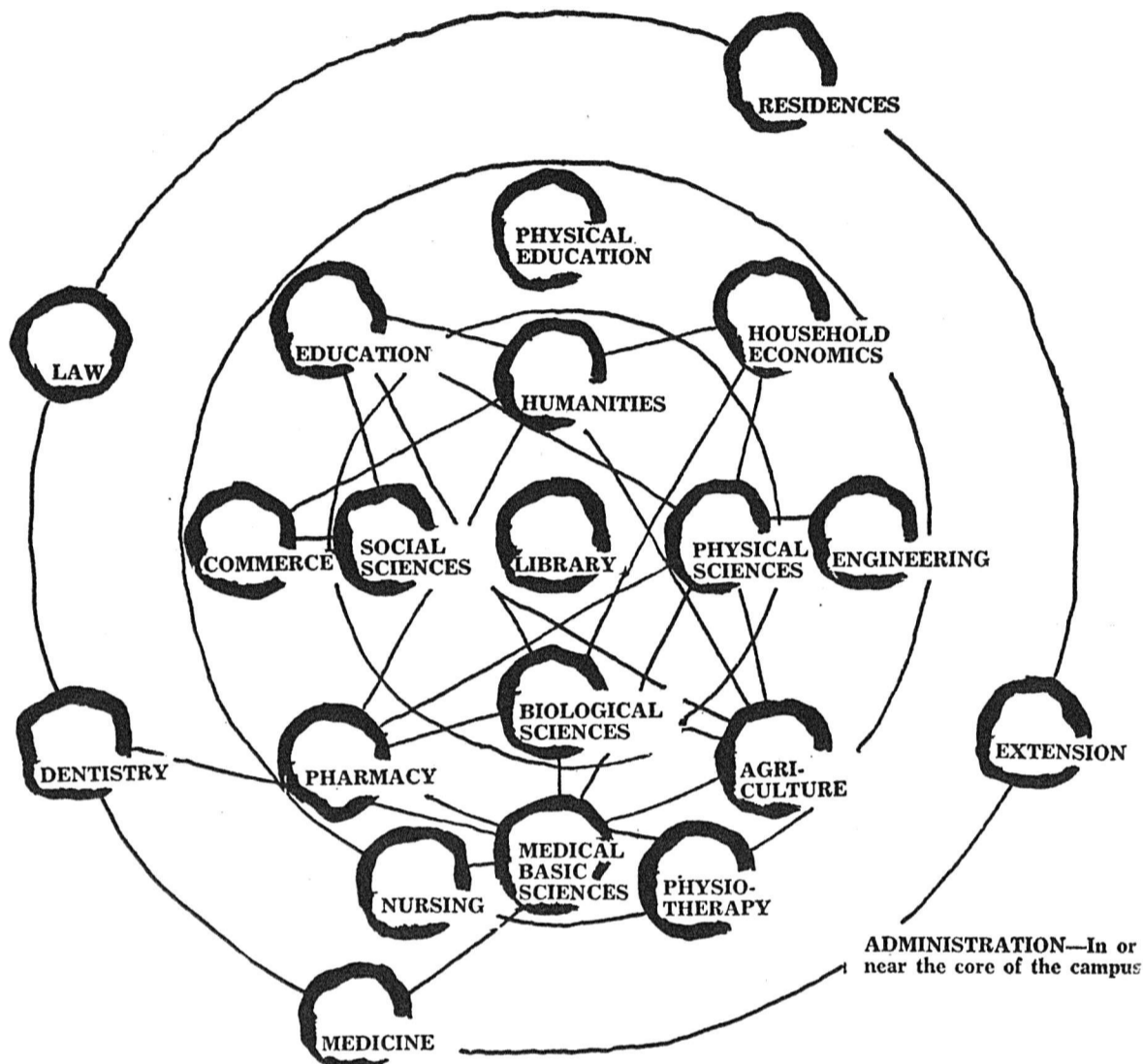
According to the plan illustrated by the diagram, the library should be the focal point of the university campus. Academic buildings for the basic arts and sciences should be close to the library, and to one another. Farther from the center come the professional schools and faculties: agriculture, engineering, and so on. Likewise physical education buildings, administration buildings, and Students' Union buildings, which are largely independent and academically self-contained, may logically be placed farther from the center. Residences, maintenance buildings, and various others which concern the regular student less directly (e.g. Department of Extension) may be on the outer edges.

This then, is the theory behind present planning. Study of a campus map will indicate how far we are from "the ideal", and the logical direction of future expansion.

While in theory our campus extends south to University Avenue, for practical purposes 87th Avenue may be thought of as the southern boundary (beyond 87th the Provincial Government has taken over large areas for public buildings), with the site of the new library (behind Arts Bldg.) as the focal point. To make our planning theory effective, future expansion should extend east into Garneau, between 87th Avenue and the river.

"No one knows when we will move into Garneau," Mr. Hawes told us. "But it is a logical development and shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. There are still a few building sites left on present university property, but at the rate we are growing it won't be long until they are used."

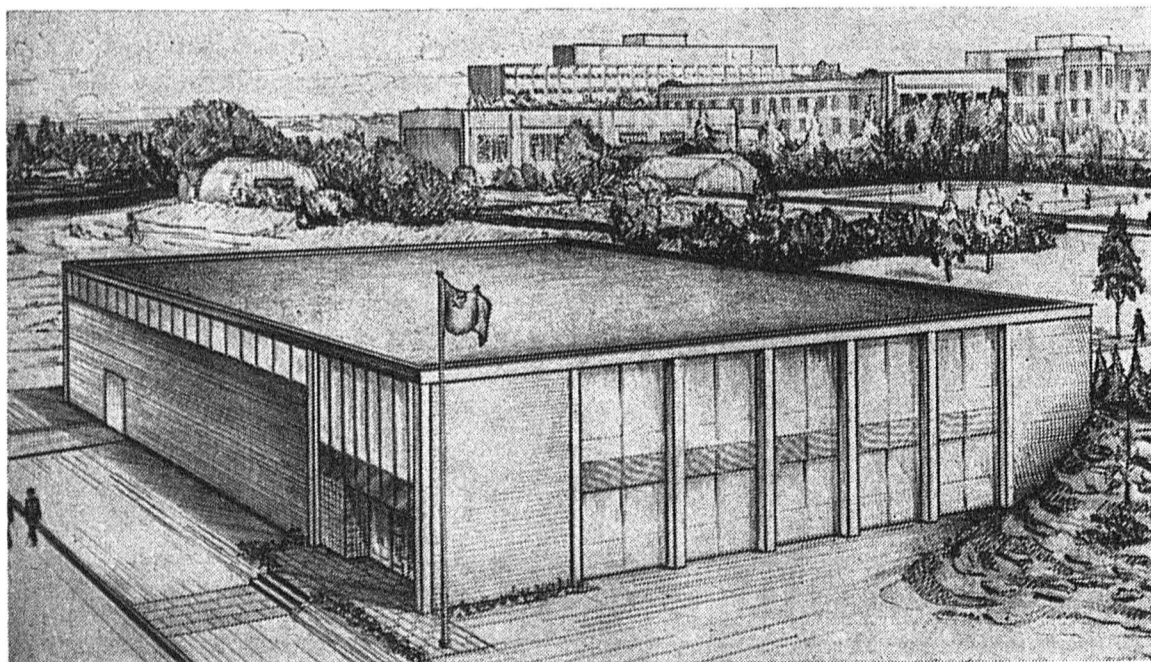
Elsewhere on these pages you will find information on the new buildings already scheduled. In the more distant future other major projects are contemplated. The Engineers are already crowded in their new building. Need for lab space in the Biological Sciences Building is "urgent". Administrative and office space is scarce, and "within five years we must either have a new print shop or quit printing." The old Arts Building is another that is crowded.



SCHMATIC DIAGRAM SHOWING RELATIVE INTERDEPENDENCE OF FACULTIES

And enrolment is still accelerating! Registration on this campus is up 14 per cent over last year, and up 36 per cent in Calgary. Which reminds us of something we may sometimes forget while we are impatient with our congested facilities and with the seeming slowness of relief—namely, that there is a full-scale building operation on the Calgary campus concurrent with ours here.

Actually, our expansion program is, according to Provost Ryan, "in proportion to our size, the fastest growing in Canada."



A Place to Start

Construction is scheduled to start "immediately" on a new armed services building just north of the rink. It may be finished by next spring. Officers' lounge, classrooms, rifle range, and a concrete floor 75 by 100 feet will be included.

While the building is designed primarily to house the three armed forces units on campus, some of the facilities will be available for Students' Union and academic functions. The concrete floor will be used for indoor tennis and other sports. The University Rifle Club will have the use of the shooting range. And the registrar will have an area available for professional examinations held during the regular session, while other space is in use.