NC State University is beginning a campus capacity and assessment process that will provide a comprehensive assessment of the Raleigh campus. The study will evaluate the campus capacity and potential by providing an overview of land holdings, buildings, and campus infrastructure capacities; land planning issues; regulatory constraints; and their impact on the academic, research, student life, and auxiliary components of campus. This study will include alternative development scenarios for the highest and best use of different campus neighborhoods and will also produce guiding principles for development tied to The Pathway to the Future: NC State’s 2011-2020 Strategic Plan. NC State has retained national architecture and planning firm, Ayers Saint Gross, to guide the process. This study is not a Master Plan; the desired product will be a communication tool for senior leadership that also provides a mechanism for making decisions involving development on campus that will align the physical campus with the mission of the University.

We are at the beginning of the planning process. The stakeholder sessions are focused on the physical aspects of the campus—how the campus is functioning today and how it can be improved. Your participation is important to the success of this study. In order to facilitate discussion, the planning team framed a series of questions aimed at discovering and strengthening the current and future opportunities on the campus. You may consider these questions as food for thought or you may wish to develop answers to questions that are relevant to you. Written responses to these questions are not required but will be helpful as future reference. Not all questions are pertinent to each meeting.

Overview:

1. What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the existing campus?
2. What sets NC State apart from other institutions that you think is especially important? Have you seen something at another University you wish was at NC State?
3. What is most memorable about the campus? What is least memorable about the campus?
4. How is the sense of arrival and access to campus? Do the existing parking areas, campus streets, and campus sidewalks accommodate the daily needs of visitors, students, faculty, and staff?
5. What campus amenities (food, recreation, bookstore, etc.) do you, your staff, and your students use on a regular basis? What amenities are missing or do not accommodate your needs?
6. Are there enough amenities outside of the campus boundaries? Housing? Food? Entertainment? Third Space?
7. Are there any places on or off campus that feel unsafe to you? If yes, where?
8. How do the surrounding neighborhoods influence the NC State campus? Where do strong synergies exist? Where can they be improved?
9. What opportunities for sustainability exist on the campus? Do you feel sustainability is promoted or passively experienced on the campus? Are there examples of sustainable technologies you have seen on other campus that could be employed at NC State?

Unit Specific:

10. Do the different units within NC State collaborate well with each other? Do the current facilities help encourage collaboration and interaction? Are there areas for informal collaboration?
11. Is your unit contemplating a significant expansion or reduction? What are the facility implications of these potential changes? Are any of your programs, activities, and/or functional areas located off-campus?
12. What facilities issues do you currently have with classrooms, laboratories, research space, offices, or other spaces (clinics, vivarium, core facilities)?

Closing:

13. If a significant donor came to you with a few hundred thousand dollars, how would you improve the physical campus?
14. What if the donor had several million dollars, how would you improve the physical campus?