

Future of the Campus Workshop

On March 28, representatives from six institutions and the University System of Georgia, met in a C21U Future of the Campus workshop exploring the physical implications of the digital transformation of higher education.

Through structured discussions, participants exchanged observations and anecdotes about the ways in which digital technology is changing the physical (face-to-face) relationship between student and instructor, between instructor and institution, and between student and institution. The workshop was focused on undergraduate education, with only occasional mention of graduate education and research. These topics are worthy of additional consideration.

Participants voiced three consistent themes:

- Pedagogy is changing – manifested by increasing faculty demand for flexible, adaptable and technologically capable spaces
- Libraries are not about books – operationalized by plans to move books to remote and/or automated retrieval systems
- Informal space makes a campus – realized by student expectation for usable space beyond classroom and library settings.

Tentative elements a research agenda to assess the implications of the online-driven transformation of the infrastructure of higher education include:

- Teaching/Learning environments - responding to pedagogical change by adapting/expanding/increasing physical options.
- Facilities Management - developing adaptive scheduling systems that allow hybridized pedagogies while maximizing overall facilities utilization
- Facilities Development - Encouraging rapid experimentation and prototyping

A report documenting the workshop is being prepared for presentation to regional and national higher education communities. It is hoped that work on the research topics distilled from the workshop will better inform the adaptation of higher education campuses in response to the challenges and opportunities posed by digital transformation.