

**THE PROJECT**

Dober Lidsky Mathey (DLM) collaborated with Lord Aeck Sargent (LAS) to prepare a campus master plan update for Valdosta State University (VSU). DLM provided space assessment and needs projection services as a key partner in the master plan consultant team. The plan updates and expands on previous planning studies to advance a wide range of improvements to support VSU's strategic planning.

**CHALLENGE**

VSU has a remarkably attractive campus north of the city center of Valdosta, GA. In recent years, however, the University has experienced enrollment declines leading to space underutilization and the need to modify its program offerings to attract additional students. The major challenges facing the planning team were to identify projects that would increase space effectiveness and efficiency, while serving the needs of some specialized programs out-growing aging facilities.

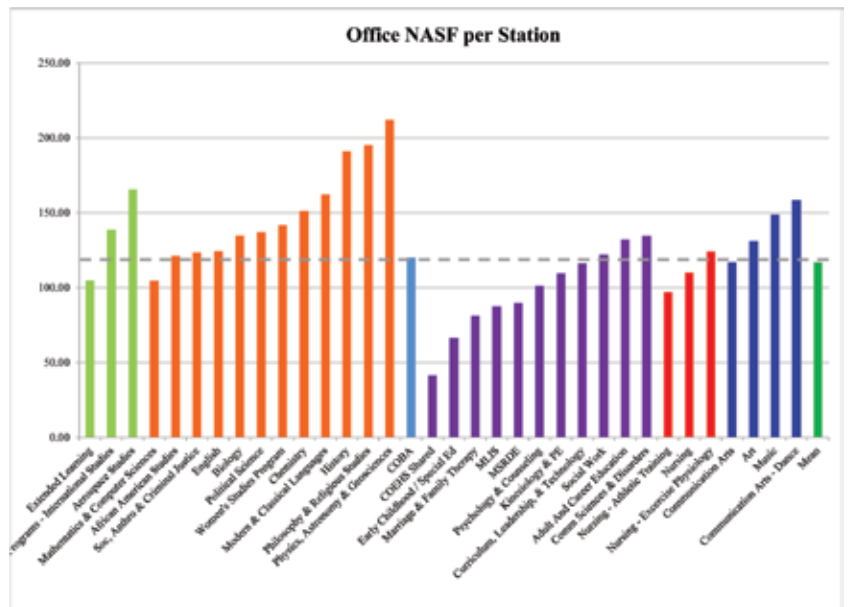
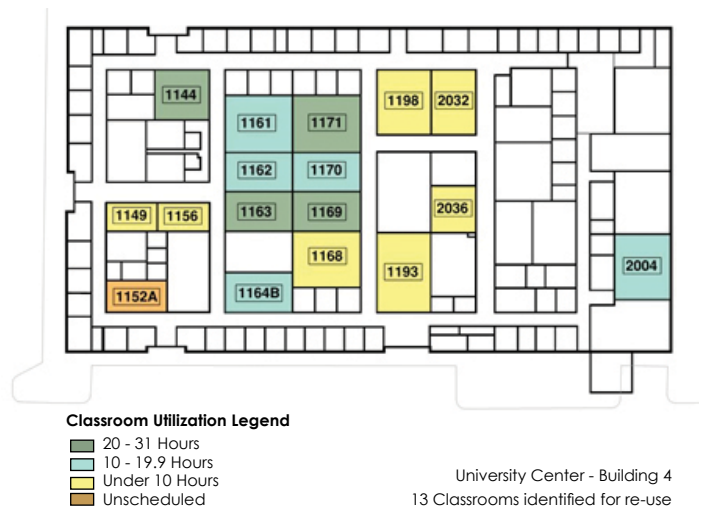
**SOLUTION**

The team interviewed the leaders of all Academic, Student Life and Athletic/Recreation programs to gain an understanding of programmatic change and facility needs. DLM prepared a thorough review of space inventory, scheduling and assignment data and worked closely with the Office of the University Architect to enhance the inventory through the addition of departmental assignment information. Then a comprehensive assessment of teaching/learning space utilization was conducted revealing low utilization levels for the classroom inventory as a whole, and for specific spaces in particular. DLM conducted similar analyses for laboratories and studios as well as office space. All analyses were compared to University System of Georgia space utilization metrics as well as a wide range of other benchmark data maintained by the consultant team.

DLM prepared a model of classrooms needed over the planning period to identify spaces that could potentially be re-purposed to support strategic initiatives. The team combined these concepts with additional findings that showed that the University's Fine Arts programs had grown sufficiently in size and scope to require additional and different types of spaces than their existing facilities. The team proposed a well-considered slate of recommendations to improve utilization, strengthen rational space allocation, and support strategic initiatives to renew VSU's facilities in the coming 5-10 years.

**REFERENCE**

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**RESULTS**

The Plan was approved in the Summer of 2015 and the Office of the University Architect has implemented several of the renovation plans recommended.

**PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE**

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