CAPITAL PROJECTS

Despite the general economic downturn UCC’s capital programme remains significant. The fit-out of the two upper floors of the Western Gateway is a major undertaking. Phase I was completed in time for the 2011/2012 academic year and brings together Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology and Biochemistry in top class, new facilities. Phase II is currently at design stage.

Two major projects have been completed in the Mardyke. The Arena has seen its third expansion since it was completed originally in 2001. New facilities include changing rooms, indoor sprint track, new fitness studios, hydrotherapy pool etc. The track will be replaced over the summer months. The historical Pavilion building has also been refurbished and expanded with additional changing rooms and a new function room.

The Beaufort Research Laboratory Building in Ringaskiddy has received full planning permission. It incorporates the HMRC, CMRC and SERG Research units. Construction will commence during the summer.

A new Clinical Research facility was opened recently by Minister for Health, Dr. James O’Reilly, in the Mercy University Hospital.

Flood Protection works are underway at the Glucksman, Laurels & Roseleigh, Connolly, and North Mall.

Space vacated in the Maltings is also being refurbished in a significant project for the Tyndall National Institute.

The Special recognition Award being presented to Pat Hallinan on behalf of the Grounds Staff by Terry Brennan, General Manager Aras na MacLeinn. The award was presented to the Grounds Staff at UCC in recognition of their superb work on the gardens on Campus. Congratulations to Pat Hallinan, Noreen O’Sullivan, John Murphy and Ger Creedon.
Energy

UCC has participated in the SEAI Public Sector Energy Monitoring & Reporting Pilot Scheme. This will contribute to the development of the Public Sector Monitoring & Reporting Systems with the overall aim of reducing Ireland’s carbon emissions by 33% by the year 2020. 16 other public bodies took part. We provided all of our data on metering connections to SEAI as well as our energy usage records and reduction initiatives of the last number of years. The graph on the left is our summary scorecard which indicates a positive trend. Significant improvements however will be required in future years if we are to meet our 33% target.

ISO 50001

UCC has become the first third level institution and the first public sector body in Ireland to achieve ISO 50001 standard. Aided by a software system (Enerit) that covers identification of significant energy users, energy saving opportunities, energy actions and planning, corrective actions and audit management. UCC implemented its energy management programme in just 4 months. We have also completed a range of projects e.g. wind turbine, PV panels, meters etc. as part of SEAI Better Energy Workplace 2011 scheme.

Reduction Targets

As part of our Tree Management plan we have planted 40 trees in the past few weeks to balance the age profile of the UCC tree stock. This planting will continue year to year.

The Grounds staff, as part of the summer bedding planting, will for the first time undertake companion planting. This method should reduce the need for pesticides while attracting the likes of butterflies, ladybirds etc. to the President’s Garden.

The Grounds staff have plans to set aside 2 areas devoted to native planting on the main Campus. This will be developed under the guidance of the Department of BEES.

Environment

For staff making the daily commute to UCC, the Buildings & Estates Office (B&E) facilitates the use of various modes of transport coordinated through the UCC Commuter Plan. For motorists, there are the staff car parks and short-stay car parks. Shuttle buses from the two Park+Ride facilities are provided free of charge. Schedules for the shuttles are under constant review to cater for changes in demand.

Cyclists can avail of an increasing number of high quality parking facilities, some of which are sheltered. Secure lockable bike sheds have been set up at the Western Gateway and the ERI. Shower/changing facilities are available in various campus locations (WGB, Kane, Tyndall). UCC has been participating in the government’s “Cycle to Work” tax saver scheme since September 2009. More than 400 staff members have purchased a bike through the scheme. This has played an important part in the increasing popularity of cycling for the commute to UCC. While in 2007, 6% of staff cycled to work, this figure has now doubled to 12%. This increase in staff cycling to work is coupled with a reduction in staff driving to work.

For those who don’t cycle to work, the UCC CampusBike scheme provides short term access to a bicycle on campus during the working day. If people need a car at short notice, they can avail of UCC’s GoCar membership. A GoCar is available for short term hire at College View, off College Road (one off registration required before use). We also intend to install e-Car charging points on the Main Campus and at the Western Gateway Building in the coming months.

For B&E the Commuter Plan is an important element of the overall green agenda for running the University as sustainably as possible. Our efforts for greener commuting have been recognised nationwide on various occasions over recent years. Keep yourself updated on http://commuting.ucc.ie

Commuting
Room Bookings

The Timetable website (http://timetable.ucc.ie) is currently being upgraded and will be completed during the Summer. The upgraded website will conform to the current UCC style and some of the new features will include:

- Colour coded Timetables e.g. lectures, tutorials & practical bookings appearing in different colours.
- More information available for each booking/activity e.g. Module description; full name of location booked.
- An option to view module timetables (drop down menu to include all module codes).
- Pictures of all centrally booked rooms.

There are quite a few further minor changes and we hope staff & students will find the new website helpful and informative. Staff will be informed when the new website is going live.

Reminder: The Web Room Booking Service is operating very successfully. If you have not used this service already, it is a web based system available for staff to make once-off room bookings such as an extra lecture, meeting etc. It is extremely easy to use and your booking is made immediately. For further information please see http://webroombooking.ucc.ie/userregistration.html

Other News

- New Waste Management approach will be introduced in May. Improved recycling facilities will be rolled out and unsightly compactors removed
- 50 acres purchased at Curraheen for improved outdoor sports facilities
- Cork County Council have adopted a Masterplan for Cork Science & Innovation Park at Curraheen
- The University received the Green Travel Initiatives Award and the Green School/College Award at the Ireland Green Awards ceremony on the 19th April 2012.
- UCC ranked 4th in the world in University of Indonesia Campus Sustainability ranking. In addition to energy, transportation, waste etc. this ranking covers research, publications and course offerings
- Western Gateway Building received SEAI Renewable Energy award (use of ground water).
- Heritage — A replica of the lace scarf presented to Queen Elizabeth when she visited UCC last year will be on display in the Boole Library later this year. The original scarf was designed and produced by local artist Carmel Creaner. It was inspired by the Stories of George Boole and Richard Rowland Thompson.
- 16 General Services staff have recently been trained and fully certified as first aiders.
- General Services in association with the Community Gardaí are organising the Summers Evening on the Quad for the 7th year in succession and are hoping to attract 4000 people over two nights. To date approx €300k has been raised for various charities.

Recent Retirements

- Maurice Ahern, Utilities and Telecommunications Manager
- Don Murray, General Services Supervisor
- Kevin McCrum, SSO
- Jimmy Kelleher, Foreman Plumber

Recent Awards