



Pioneer: Oregon Experiment opens options

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development without disturbing the interred remains.

The plan, drafted by urban designer Lawrence Lackey and his associates, aimed to build structures over the existing grave sites to preserve the cemetery while still allowing for University development.

Ramey was amused that someone had actually been paid money to draft such an idea and said the plan was scratched before ever gaining momentum.

Lackey's plan focused specifically on detailing the University's future development. Exact projects were mapped out and decided on years in

advance, an idea that proved not to work, something Ramey said is exemplified in Lackey's plans for the cemetery.

"Faculty said 'there had to be a better way,'" Ramey said.

The failing of the Pioneer Cemetery development plan led to the formation of an entirely new outlook on campus planning, detailed in the Oregon Experiment of 1973

The Oregon Experiment was a collaborative effort between the University and the Center for Environmental Structure. The plan calls for an ongoing planning process that steers away from specifically mapping out building and development plans for the future.

University Vice President for Administration Dan Williams said even if Clark had not made the promise that he did, the University is more interested in buying new land for development than financing the purchase and relocation of a more than 125-year-old cemetery.

Though the proximity of the cemetery makes it a valuable piece of land to the University, Williams said the cost of buying and moving the cemetery outweighs the benefits that could come from it.

"The cost-benefit financially isn't there," Williams said.

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These drawings show an architect's 1963 plans for an elevated building structure over Pioneer Cemetary. The cemetary was the center of much controversy during the 1960s. when University officials were considering purchasing the site for development purposes.

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