

Campus Plan Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2010
Mary Graydon Center – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Review Population
3. Housing
4. Density – Floor Area Ratio
5. Other

The meeting was called to order by David Taylor, Chief of Staff for AU President Neil Kerwin.

AU representatives attending the meeting included David Taylor, Jorge Abud, Assistant Vice President, Facilities and Administrative Services; Jerry Gager, University Architect; Penny Pagano, Director, Community and Local Government Relations; Maria Pahigiannis, Projects Coordinator, Office of the President.

Materials from the meeting are available on the Community Relations web page on the American University web site at www.american.edu/finance/fas/campus-plan.cfm

David Taylor made introductions and reviewed the impact of the recent snow storms and days the university was closed.

He restated the university's goal for its new Campus Plan to reflect the goals set in the university's Strategic Plan, and the priorities for this plan that include housing, moving the WCL to the Tenley campus, and science.

Population:

Our current population cap is 10,600 and the proposed new cap would be 13,600 that includes 1,700 current law school students, plus a projected additional 300 new law school students and another 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students over the next 10 years.

Neighbors expressed concern about this growth in a neighborhood that feels already “mature” and developed.

AU believes that the Tenley campus is an appropriate area for the WCL because the Tenley site is an eight acre site that can accommodate the school and is also Metro accessible. No law school students will be housed on the campus.

Jorge Abud said traffic is a problem area wide and our goal is not to make it worse. Our traffic study has shown that our traffic into campus has actually decreased over the past 10 years. Shuttle ridership is up 50%. Asked whether this reduction meant more people were parking in the neighborhood, he said AU patrols and is giving out about 20 tickets a day, and this does not make up the reduction in traffic.

Task Force members asked what AU would do to keep neighbors from parking in the Tenley area. Abud said we have not yet designed a program but will do so as part of the new Campus Plan.

Asked if WCL didn't increase 300 students in the next decade, would that leave those spaces open for AU undergrads or graduate school growth. Abud responded that technically that would be possible, but those are not our enrollment growth goals.

Some task force members suggested that they feel AU is as big as it should be and that zoning regulations specify that institutions "should not have an adverse effect on the community."

Other task force members suggested that AU consider making parking a mandatory part of student tuition, and to implement such a plan now.

Other members noted that task force should recognize that the university brings a lot of business to our area which is good for our community.

Asked how graduate school growth might translate into facilities priorities, Abud said AU is seeing a lot of increase in the area of science and the university does not need a whole new building a classrooms to accomplish this.

Housing:

Our current design capacity is 3,465. With 345 students tripled in rooms, and another 200 students living in the Berkshire, our actual capacity is 4,008.

The 2020 campus plan requirement would 4,262. Our demand estimate is 4,900. Our proposed housing capacity would be 4,600.

Roper, Gray and Clark will add 200 in 2010.

An addition to Nebraska Hall would add 100 new beds and could be available in 2012.

Building on the Nebraska parking lot could add 650 new beds. Building on the main campus (west of Nebraska) could add another 350 beds by 2020.

Neighbors stressed their preference to keep student life West of Nebraska Avenue.

AU is talking with DDOT about pedestrian safety around Ward Circle and crossing areas at Nebraska and Massachusetts Avenues.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23 at 7:00 p.m. in Mary Graydon Center.

DRAFT