

Campus Plan Task Force Meeting
July 28, 2009
Mary Graydon Center – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview of Campus Plan process – definitions, legal requirements, timetable
3. Overview of university and its facilities
4. Overview of 2000 Campus Plan
5. Review neighborhood concerns from previous Plans
6. Transportation Existing Conditions Assessment

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

AU representatives attending included David Taylor, Jorge Abud, Assistant Vice President, Facilities and Administrative Services; Jerry Gager, University Architect; Penny Pagano, Director, Community and Local Government Relations; Hisham Khalid, Office of General Counsel; Maria Pahigiannis, Projects Coordinator, Office of the President. AU consultants present included Paul Tummonds, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP; Dan VanPelt, Gorove/Slade Associates; Michael Henley, Gorove/Slade Associates; Robert Schiesel, Gorove/Slade Associates.

All presentation materials from this meeting and future ones will be available on the AU Campus Plan web page located at: www.american.edu/finance/fas/campus-plan.cfm.

Overview of Campus Plan process

Paul Tummonds from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, who has also worked on the Kogod and McKinley expansions, the Katzen Center, SIS, as well as Sibley Hospital, gave an overview of the campus plan process. The first stage is the campus plan approval followed by the second stage of further processing approval.

An example: First the campus plan, which sets out the broad parameters for development of the Main Campus and Tenley Campus, is approved. It includes such details as enrollment and employee caps. After approval, the University can begin to move forward on actual projects, like the SIS building. The building/project application goes through further processing where all the details of the building design – appearance, location of garage entrance, etc. – are reviewed and permits are approved.

The neighbors had various questions about the process including what would happen if the University builds something not included in the campus plan/does not adhere to plan. Paul Tummonds explained that the University may apply for a special exception, and the Zoning Commission would review the application and ensure that all the special regulations are met. Additionally, there is a process to amend the campus plan. If there is a complaint of an infraction, the Zoning Commission can investigate the complaint and judge whether an infraction exists. If

they decide there is an infraction, the Zoning Commission can issue a civil infraction (“ticket”) with a financial penalty and order that the infraction is fixed.

Jorge Abud detailed the proposed timeline:

- **July – December 2009** – Meetings with the Community Task Force, Community Groups, ANC’s, DDOT and OP to develop and review list of issues
- **January – March 2010** – AU prepares draft Campus Plan
- **March – May 2010** - Community Task Force, Community Groups, ANC’s, DDOT and OP review and comment on draft
- **June – July 2010** – AU revises plan based on comments received
- **August 2010** – AU files plan with the Zoning Commission
- **August 2010 – 2011** – Zoning Commission considers Campus Plan application, holds public hearing(s), decision meeting(s) and publishes written order.

Overview of university and its facilities

Please see the attached PowerPoint presentation with the detailed overview of AU’s facilities.

The neighbors asked for an additional map showing all of the properties owned and leased by the University. This map is also included with the meeting/presentation materials.

Overview of 2000 Campus Plan

The neighbors noted that there is a huge variance between what was included in the 2000 Campus Plan and what was actually built. They feel that something is wrong with the campus plan process. Jorge Abud recognized that there is a large variance but explained that neighbors want to know about all possible projects, and that the University wants to get all possible projects approved in case a project becomes feasible within the campus plan timeframe.

Review neighborhood concerns from previous Plans

Please see attached summary of campus plan issues.

Transportation Existing Conditions Assessment

Gorove/Slade Associates are the consultants contracted to conduct the transportation study. Ten years ago Gorove/Slade conducted a transportation study and one of the interesting trends they noticed is that their assumption that parking was a linear function (more people = more parking) was incorrect. More people have moved to using public transportation and the AU shuttle bus. So for the upcoming campus plan they want to also include some alternative plans. That is, they want to consider what people will be doing 10 years from now – car pooling, using mass transport, etc.

Gorove/Slade wanted to hear from the neighbors, however, about the “feel” of transportation in the neighborhood today, and the neighbors shared many of their concerns. First of all, they did not feel that demand for parking had decreased, but rather that there were more AU students, faculty and staff parking in the neighborhoods. Furthermore, they urged Gorove/Slade to look at parking with respect to special events and include suggestions on how to operate/manage them. Another important issue was pedestrian traffic. The number of students walking to campus from the Berkshires, for instance is something the neighbors would be interested in knowing. The pedestrian traffic around Ward Circle also makes the traffic worse, especially trying to turn right onto Nebraska. The WCL students crossing down by the law school has also contributed to the increase

of traffic back ups. The neighbors also suggested AU take a look at how much they charge for parking to help alleviate neighborhood parking issues. Lastly, they wanted to know the impact of the new SIS garage on the traffic on Nebraska Avenue. Overall, the neighbors want AU to keep the big picture in mind.

The neighbors also requested that we share with them the full transportation study, which we have included with the meeting/presentation materials.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be September 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Mary Graydon Center.

DRAFT