

Campus Plan Task Force Meeting
October 20, 2009
Mary Graydon Center – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. University's Strategic Direction
3. Site Analysis
4. Historic Inventory

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

This is the fourth Community Task Force Meeting.

AU representatives included: President Neil Kerwin, Don Myers, David Taylor; Jorge Abud, Assistant Vice President, Facilities and Administrative Offices; Jerry Gager, University Architect; Penny Pagano, Director, Community and Local Government Relations; Maria Pahigiannis, Projects Coordinator, Office of the President.

Announcements:

A new electronic newsletter for our neighbors, "AU in the Neighborhood," was launched this month. It will be distributed by email monthly by the Community Relations office and issues will be also posted on the Community Relations web page www.american.edu/finance/fas/campus-plan.cfm

The agenda, presentations and materials from each campus plan are posted on Community Relations web page.

University's Strategic Direction:

AU President Neil Kerwin spoke to the task force and underscored that the university growth will closely aligned with the new Strategic Plan and be modest for the next ten years. He also stressed that the university is placing an emphasis on quality in the next decade. "It's time for this university to engage in the great issues of our time," Dr. Kerwin said. "We hope that our success is something you can join in," he told the task force. "I hope this is a university that you can be proud to be nearby and take full advantage of."

In response to a question about what assets the university brings to enhance life for neighbors, Dr Kerwin noted that AU is the only campus in the city designated as a local arboretum and that the university has historically built its facilities with our surrounding communities as critical to anything we do. The Katzen Center, he added, has been a major asset for this community and is open to

neighbors. In addition, he added, AU offers lectures and other forms of intellectual life that neighbors have access to.

He also said that in looking forward, AU is comfortable with the size of its freshman class, “give or take a few percentage points,” and that AU is retaining an increasing number of students in the sophomore and junior classes.

Review of site analyses:

University Architect Jerry Gager presented a site analysis that reviewed potential sites for development on the main campus and the Tenley campus, including the carryover from the 2001 Campus Plan. Also identified were the commercial and residential properties owned by AU, as well as space that currently is leased by the university.

Using a virtual model, the site analysis identified sites on the main and Tenley campuses, including square footage and possible potential development uses for these sites. These sites include Nebraska Hall, Katzen West, President’s Office Building, 45th Street, Tennis Courts, Osborn, Garage, Asbury, Beeghly, Tower, Watkins, Child Development Center (CDC), Public Safety, McKinley Expansion and McKinley West Clark, Old SIS building, Nebraska Parking Lot, Kay, Tenley Campus. The full presentation is available on the Campus Plan web page.

Timeline:

Jorge Abud said that the university hoped to file with the Zoning Commission sometime this summer.

Jorge Abud stated that the historical preservation component will be included in the new Campus Plan that will include research on properties before 1970 including Hurst Hall, McKinley, Mary Graydon Center, Battelle Tompkins, the President’s Office Building, Hamilton, and Capital Hall and Dunblane on the Tenley Campus. AU will be working the city’s Historic Preservation Office on this part of the new Campus Plan.

Questions and discussion points raised by task force members included how some of the new facilities can be accessible to the community, such as creating a recreation center at the tennis court facilities that everyone in the community can use. Other task force members asked for more retail, etc., in the new campus plan that the community could benefit from. Others expressed for more communal space and trees that invite the community in and to make the community a partner. As one neighbor said, “a lot depends on how much you work with us.”

The meeting was adjourned.

The next Campus Plan Task Force meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2009.