

American University
Community Liaison Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Mary Graydon Student Center, Room 306

Introductions & Opening Remarks

The quarterly meeting of the American University Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by Sherry Rutherford at 6:00 PM. Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer, welcomed attendees. Sherry Rutherford reviewed the ground rules and agenda. Attendees introduced themselves to the group.

Matt Bennett provided opening remarks and updates on the end of American University's fall semester.

- He thanked everyone for their participation, being a part of community and neighborhood is important to us all.
- AU has notched 3 Patriot League championships this semester, with the volleyball team just falling to a tough University of Colorado team in the NCAA Tournament.
- AU's Sine Institute just announced their new Fellows for the spring. They will host a Welcome Panel and Reception event on January 27.
- AU will be kicking off its 250+ at American celebration in January, looking at American history, what has the founding of country and democracy have made possible, and where do we go next.
- AU will launch its new strategic plan in January focused on three pillars: career readiness, community (engagement in the neighborhood and DC more broadly), and our R1 research designation.

Standing Reports

Enrollment and Student Housing Update

- Matt Bennett shared the 2025 Enrollment and Student Housing Update. Main Campus enrollment is 8,339 and total student enrollment is 9,680, with full-time undergraduate enrollment totaling 5,894, with 79.44% housed on campus.
- Under the Campus Plan minimum 67% on-campus housing requirement, AU remains well within compliance.

Q: Is AU considering adding short-term programs?

A: Yes, AU is interested in expanding in that area with a focus on stackable credentials.

Q: Is some of the decrease in enrollment due to international students?

A: Yes, visa problems did create some decrease in enrollment with students having difficulty receiving the necessary approvals.

Q. Has AU seen any impact of on-campus housing requirement?

A. Not on the enrollment side but we think it will help with retention. AU was the last DC university to require two years on campus.

Construction Update

- Laura Marks provided an update on the final weeks of construction at the Meltzer Center and Sports Center Annex. Building move-in will begin next week and will officially open to the public in January.

- Sherry Rutherford shared an overview of the Sports Center renovation plans, which was approved in November by the Zoning Commission without hearing.

Q. What's the next project on the schedule?

A. Right now, there isn't anything. The Sports Center renovation is the final piece of AU's multiyear investment in Student Thriving, which also includes the Meltzer Center, SCAN, and Mary Graydon Student Center renovations.

Transportation and Parking Update

- Josh Finver shared the neighbor parking enforcement update. For the period August 23 – December 3, 2025, 120 tickets were issued.
- Work continues with DDOT and AU stakeholders on the installation of a southside Capital Bikeshare station.
- Flexpost installation on Nebraska Avenue has been completed.
- Spin's operating license in DC has been suspended by DDOT and AU's scooter partnership with them is in limbo.

Q: For parking near Spring Valley Building, do you do proactive ticketing?

A: Yes, that's a priority focus area for our enforcement team.

Q: Are all student vehicles required to be registered with the university?

A: All student vehicles on campus are required to be registered. Students who live off-campus are required to legally register and park their vehicles but not register them with the university.

Q: Do you help with shared bicycles and scooters that aren't parked safely?

A: Yes, we work with the bike and scooter companies to pick them up and manage balancing and geofencing.

Q: There are concerns about the bus shelter in front of SVB. Has someone been living in there?

A: We haven't heard that but we'll follow up with Facilities Management.

Off-Campus Student Conduct

- Jeff Brown presented the Off-Campus Student Conduct Report for September 6, 2025, to December 4, 2025. Five reports were received. Two reports were resolved through meetings with the Office of the Dean of Students and three could not identify AU students. Conduct numbers are significantly improved compared to last year.

Community Relations Updates

Campus Plan Commitments

Jason Millison provided information on his visits to apartment buildings in the neighborhood to deliver Community Relations materials with reminders of the Good Neighbor Policy. Jason informed the group of the 90% completion rate for off-campus student orientation. Lastly, he directed individuals to where to find the Jacobs Field Sound Monitoring reports on our website.

Upcoming and Past Events

Jason Millison provided a report of recent news and upcoming events at American University including the Janney ES 5K. Sunday, December 14, will be AU's Fall Commencement.

Good of the Order

Sherry Rutherford opened the floor for any questions and covered the dates for 2026 quarterly Community Liaison Committee meetings.

Attendees

Community:

Judith Kopperud, AUNP Student Life and Safety Working Group member

Shelly Repp, Neighbor

Larry Seftor, Neighbor

Rita McWilliams, AUNP Engagement and Communications Working Group member

Chuck Elkins, AUNP Student Life and Safety Working Group Co-Chair

Timothy Talley, AUNP Facilities Working Group Member

American University Staff:

Matt Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communications Officer

Josh Finver, Assistant Director for Transportation Demand Management

Jeff Brown, AVP of Student Affairs

Laura Marks, AVP of Community and Government Relations

Jason Millison, Director of Community Relations

Isabella Hassett, Assistant Director of Community and Government Relations

Sherry Rutherford, Principal, Rutherford Partners LLC