

Campus Plan Task Force Meeting
November 10, 2009
Mary Graydon Center – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Site discussion and prioritization
3. 2001 Campus Plan Commitments
4. Enrollment assumptions

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

This is the fifth Community Task Force Meeting.

AU representatives included David Taylor, Jorge Abud, Assistant Vice President, Facilities and Administrative Offices; Jerry Gager, University Architect; Hisham Khalid, Associate General Counsel; Penny Pagano, Director, Community and Local Government Relations; Maria Pahigiannis, Projects Coordinator, Office of the President.

All presentation materials are available on the AU Campus Plan web page www.american.edu/finance/fas/campus-plan.cfm Materials for this meeting include: a 2011 Campus Plan Timetable, Future Activity, Site Analyses, Campus Plan – Potential Site Inventory, Site Development Probabilities, Student Population & Projections 2000-2020 with the Law School, Community Relations/Campus Plan web page.

Site Discussion and Prioritization:

A discussion was held outlining the priorities that the university has assigned to the potential development sites identified at the October, 2009, Campus Plan meeting. 45th Street was identified as a low priority.

Katzen West was identified as a low priority.

McKinley West was identified as a low priority.

Tenley Campus was identified as a high priority. It was developed for the Washington Semester Program that has been there since the 1980's and currently are using it for 250-300 Washington Semester Program students and students with some other smaller programs. We are not making full use of the campus for the Washington Semester Program now. Tenley campus does have Dunblane

which has history around it, but the building has undergone many changes and we have concerns about its historic value. We will be working with the city's Historic Preservation office.

Nebraska Hall was identified as a high priority, and the site provides a logical extension of the existing Nebraska Hall and a potential for 100-150 beds.

This is likely to be considered in light of our housing needs.

Kay was identified as a high priority for an addition to the Kay Spiritual Life Center.

Nebraska parking lot was identified as a high priority because of the large size of the land (8 acres).

We would have to manage the number of parking spaces, but over time fewer and fewer people are parking there.

Clark/Roper/Gray/McCabe – two are slated to be converted back to housing next year. The site was identified as a high priority as a possible dorm.

Letts/Anderson courtyard – high priority to do some development in the area between the buildings.

Beeghly was identified as a high priority because science is one area we have talked about expanding.

The tennis courts were identified as high priority and a logical space for facilities to provide indoor sports.

President's Office Building was identified as a medium probability.

Osborn, Asbury (where the central heating plant is located) and the garage were all identified as medium priorities.

The Tower, CDC and Public Safety were identified as low priorities.

Watkins was identified as a medium priority.

The old SIS building was identified as a high priority because it will be vacated with the opening of the new SIS School in May, 2010.

Student Population & Projections

Jorge Abud presented the student population and projections for the 2004 -2020. With the law school, which would be counted as part of the campus if a new law school is built at the Tenley campus, this total would be 13,600.

The current cap (minus the law school which is located off campus in Spring Valley) is 10,600.

Questions and discussion points from task force members:

Asked whether AU would continue to house students at the Berkshire Apartments, Jorge Abud is not to rely on the Berkshire for our housing. He also said that as the quality of the university has improved there is a higher retention and desire to stay in student housing.

Asked about input from the neighbors, he said, “we do want your input.”

Task force members also commented that housing on the Nebraska lot could mean high density along Nebraska Avenue, while others said the close proximity of neighbors would need to be respectful about buffers and the neighbors preference for buildings other than housing and keep student housing on the campus where buildings are now located. Other comments opposed any building on the Clark site at Nebraska Avenue and Rockwood Parkway because it that area provides a gateway to Spring Valley. Ft. Gaines residents questioned an extension on Nebraska Hall that would double the number of students across the street from single family homes. Some Spring Valley residents suggested that if the law school vacated its current location that the building go back to being a commercial building. Other questions were raised about the current and proposed cap and the impact of the university on the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be January 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Mary Graydon Center.