

Testimony on Sept. 25, 2006 to the DC Zoning Commission by Alex Kachenko in support of GW's proposed Foggy Bottom Campus Plan

One aspect in particular of the proposed Campus Plan which I support is the building of new science facilities on the George Washington University's Foggy Bottom campus because it would create diversity in the student population. Currently, the vast majority of students I am in contact with are studying politics, either domestic or foreign. While I love politics, I feel that the lack of a substantial science community in this school hinders the students' ability to pursue sciences. If I ever decide not to pursue politics, my next field of study would be physics and I would leave George Washington. As it currently stands, there are many better and less expensive options for a science education. Similarly, students who are looking solely for a science major are not likely to choose this school, because it does not have the proper facilities for that study.

The location that makes this school such a great political science school would also make it a great school to study science. The federal government funds science research projects across the entire country. Most of the companies that receive these funds have branches in DC. This means that research going on across the country all connects back to this one city, exposing students here to companies that research in every corner of the US. If this university were known for strong science departments, the opportunities for internships and jobs would be limitless.

By diversifying the possibilities of study, the university will also increase the caliber of students attending. If the school attracts both political and science majors, more students will apply, and the university will be able to select the best out of a larger broader group of students. More students would be competing for a limited number of spaces, allowing the university to be more selective.

Furthermore, having a state of the art research facility on campus would create very good jobs right here. Graduates would be able to pursue their career in this city. The jobs created add to the tax base, and people who live in DC are going to spend money in DC, aiding the local economy.

Sincerely,
Alexander Kachenko, 2010



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 06-11

EXHIBIT NO. 136

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