

October 30, 2006

GW Residence Hall Association: Testimony for the School Without Walls Project

Good Evening. My name is Anne DiGiulio and I am here tonight to speak to you on behalf of the George Washington University Residence Hall Association. As the Community Service Coordinator for the organization, it is my role to come to you and explain why our organization has chosen to support the School Without Walls project.

This project is a bold effort on behalf of the administration to accommodate the needs of George Washington University students. The proposed residence hall considers many aspects of student life within its design. The system of single bedrooms with a shared living space allows students access to both personal space and the benefits that come from a roommate. Universities across the United States are opening residence halls with similar layouts because the set-up is so desirable. By the time many students are upperclassmen, they are ready for privacy and independence, yet still desire the companionship of their friends. This design is the perfect synthesis of the two. The proposed residence hall would give a similar living experience to many off-campus apartments while retaining the proximity to classes and activities. Students will be able to set their own sleep and study habits without worrying about disrupting their roommates. Disagreements will not erupt when one half of the room is dirty. Even things as simple as playing the music you like and decorating in your style make this option ideal for the modern student. These things really do affect the relationships between roommates and this in turn affects the attitude of the campus. In addition, we feel that building's two entrances will enhance the mobility of students both in this residence hall and on campus in general.

Another benefit of this proposed residence hall is that it will fill the void left by the proposed transition of the Aston from undergraduate housing as set forth in the proposed Campus Plan. This transition would leave the undergraduate population without 116 beds and is of particular concern to our organization. Rather than force upperclassmen to move off campus, our organization is pleased to see efforts to keep students in the campus community through the university's development plan. This will be an attractive housing option that will draw students to campus while sticking to the current and future campus plans.

In conclusion the George Washington University Residence Hall Association would like to offer their support of this proposed residence hall. Thank you for your time.

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District of Columbia

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