

**Student Space Working Group Testimony
To the Washington D.C. Zoning Commission
Thursday, June 2, 2011**

By Max Glassie, Georgetown University Class of 2010
Chair Emeritus of the Student Space Working Group (SSWG)
Primary Author of the *Report on Student Space at Georgetown, 2010* (RSSG)

Mr. Chairman and members of the commission, my name is Max Glassie, and I was a Theology major in the class of 2010. I was a founding member of the Student Space Working Group (SSWG), chair my senior year, and primary author of *The Report on Student Space at Georgetown, 2010* (RSSG), which is an eighty page, extensively researched report written to represent student space needs on campus.

As part of our research we conducted a comprehensive survey that received an extraordinary 1,000 undergraduate respondents. I have spent over a thousand hours working on this issue and have presented to senior administrators and members of the Board of Regents and the Board of Directors of Georgetown on student space.

Beyond this, I love Georgetown University with all my heart, and I am tremendously grateful for the loving environment that has helped me grow as a person so much while I've been here.

We have heard a lot in these meetings about how this campus plan will impact the neighborhood and the community surrounding Georgetown, but I would like to respectfully suggest that you give equal consideration to the needs of students. The way I see it, this campus plan will have an extraordinarily positive impact on student and community life.

We will finally have a student center, safe and up-to-date athletic facilities, and a desperately needed expansion of study space. This plan is an answer to my prayers.

Why? Student life at Georgetown suffers today across the board because our campus does not have adequate facilities to meet student needs. We found that overall 53% of students were dissatisfied with student space at Georgetown. I could cite more statistics and testimonials to prove this, but that is all in the *Report* and we don't have much time.

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This campus plan is very important to students because it is focused on solving student space problems. These projects are vital for the academic, extracurricular, and athletic life on campus in the future. The New South Student Center in particular will help solve neighborhood concerns because it will keep students on campus. It will be vibrant with student life all hours of the day and night. We simply don't have spaces that can serve this function right now.

In my view, this plan and the student center in particular is already the best, most feasible way to solve many of the problems we face in town-gown relations. It's a win-win.

But truthfully, I am terrified about the way the results of this hearing may affect Georgetown's plan. A requirement to build additional housing on campus would prevent the university from addressing these space needs and thus render a tremendous disservice to the student body. Georgetown has limited material resources, both in land and finances, and the investment in housing space will cripple our ability to complete these projects.

In large part, Georgetown operates as a top tier university in spite of its facilities rather than because of them, with our human resources in terms of students, faculty, and staff being the university's greatest asset. We need improved facilities so in the future Georgetown can attract the kind of people who make this university what it is today.

If it pleases the Commission, I am now open for questions. I will be submitting the entirety of the *Report on Student Space at Georgetown, 2010* for the record. Thank you.