Dorothy Miller, Chair
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A
2440 Va. Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Modification of Condition 10 of the 2000 to 2009 GWU Campus Plan, (16553-I) ZC Case No. 04-23, Hall on Va. Ave., NW

Dear Chairman Mitten and Fellow Commissioners:

I am Dorothy Miller, Chair of ANC-2A. The Commission has voted that I should represent the ANC-2Ain the above case. This is ANC-2A's response to GWU's request to modify Condition 10 of the current Campus Plan.

The applicant for the above titled project appeared before the Commission on November 10, 2004, at a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting, and with a quorum present, made a presentation of the modification that is being requested. The ANC by a majority voted not to approve this request. as it feels it violates of the Zoning Regulations, which require GWU to submit a "plan for developing the campus as a whole" to demonstrate that the campus will not create objectionable conditions for the neighboring property.

The Comprehensive Plan violations were included in the statement I previously filed. The Comprehensive Plan includes a policy that GWU should provide housing for its student body within the current campus plan boundaries and should stop conversion of building outside the campus boundaries to dormitories or without permission of the ZC for academic purposes. (No attached letter dated November 10 re this violation)

First GWU states in its 'STATEMENT OF EXISTING AND INTENDED USE" that the Campus Plan amendment proposes no changes in the existing campus boundaries. When were the campus boundaries moved from 24th Street to 26 Street?

This modification request clearly shows the flaws that were inherent in the Campus Plan submitted in 1999 and subsequent filings. All have failed to show a plan by GWU on how the University would arrange to meet the requirement to house its students within the campus boundaries in the time required by the Plan. It is past time for a request from the Zoning Commission and the Office of Planning demanding this plan. The residents and the City need to know what protection and enforcement they can expect from the city government.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 04-23
Exhibit 29
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.04-23
EXHIBIT NO.29

Yes the University has been building dormitories, but at the same time the University has continued unabated to increase freshmen enrollment every year since the plan was approved. So, it builds a dormitory for 200 students but increases enrollment by 3,000 students. It builds another dormitory for 735 students but in creases its enrollment by another 3,000 students. Then it asks for approval of a PUD to build a dormitory for 300 students and again increases enrollment. When all else fails, file for a modification of what has been decided or denied. Enclosed are a number of articles that spell out this checker game that GWU has been playing with the city for too long.

This modification request for student housing confirms that GWU has no intention of complying with the dictates of the Campus Plan or of the Comprehensive Plan, and, intends to pursue, and ask this Commission to bless, its practice of expanding beyond the Campus Plan boundaries in defiance of the Comprehensive Plan. Now is the time to put a stop to this sham. ANC-2A requests that the Commission deny this Modification Request. GWU's current Semiannual Reports are not submitted under oath, as required, nor are they audited or certified. This should be mandated to create some control of GWU's out of control enrollment increase.

Attachments:

How other universities are coping with ever increasing request for enrollment.
Other news articles re increase freshmen enrolment by GWU

'Till We Build It, You Can't Come

THIS FALL, MANY FRESHMEN WILL FIND THEY JUST CAN'T fit in at college—literally. Colleges across the country are trying to find ways to accommodate surging enrollment. To reduce class size, UMass denied admissions to already accepted students who missed the May deposit deadline. U Texas shifted 800 students, who normally would enter in the fall, to summer entrance. Dartmouth College is hoping some free-spirited freshmen will take it up on its offer of a free year of housing (worth $5,000) for students who defer admission to fall 2002, when more residence space will be available. School administrators love the unexpectedly high yield. But too much of a good thing can be ... too much.

Here's how often schools, less aggressive in going to the brink, are handling the overflow.

Please phone.

Thanks for the material. Will read it soon.

8/1/01

Admissions numbers increase

■ Regular and early decision applications on the rise

by Andrea Nurko
Hatchet Reporter

GW continues to see an increase in prospective student interest, as the University received close to 11,000 applications for next year as of the end of November, admissions officials said last week. Early Decision I applications have also increased – the University had received about 100 more applications this year than last year about a week prior to the Dec. 1 deadline.

Applications have been on the rise for the last nine years, and Admissions Director Kathryn Napper said she is optimistic that applications will eclipse last year's 16,910 mark. As of Dec. 6 last year, 10,200 applications had been received, according to a December 2001 Hatchet article.

"The students' experience here is not something you can get at many other schools," Napper said. "Our students are just nice and interesting. They just like what we have to offer."

Officials said they attribute the rise in early decision applications from 500 to 600 to a growing national trend of more high school students choosing the option and to the fact that GW is becoming many students' first choice.

The University plans to enroll a freshman class of 2,250, the same number of students as last year, despite a possible increase in applications. Officials said they would like GW to lower its admissions rate below 40 percent this year. GW accepted a little more than 40 percent of applicants last year, an eight percent decrease from 2001.

GW usually receives the most applications from New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Napper said GW sent representatives to all 50 states and is trying to recruit more from the Midwest and South this year because those regions are often "underrepresented."

But she said getting students from all states is not a priority.

GW consistently receives a high number of students every year from Cherry Hill East High School in New Jersey.

This year, Cherry Hill officials mailed 15 applications, two of which were Early Decision I, said Tony Mancini, a guidance counselor at the high school. He said he expects to submit about six more by the time the Jan. 15 deadline rolls around.

"Our kids are very sophisticated," Mancini said. "They want the majors (GW) offers, like political science and journalism. You also have great name recognition here. We have half a dozen kids there every year who are doing well and enjoying it."

Officials said the potential trimester system is another factor that may attract students in the future. University President Steven Joel Trachtenberg recently called for a committee to examine a three-semester calendar to replace the current two-semester system in order to use campus facilities more "efficiently."

Vice President for Student Academic Support Services Robert Chernak said the system could "prove to be very positive" for interest in the University.

"I do not want to prejudge what the committee's findings might be in May but, on the surface, the full three-semester plan would very likely afford GW students much more flexibility in housing assignments, study abroad, internships, course selection, cost containment, etc.," Chernak said.

The number of visitors to campus rose to nearly 25,000 this year, a five to 10 percent increase from last year, according to Admissions Office figures.

"What has changed is the time of year in which prospective students visit," Napper said. "We're seeing a gradual shift from the fall of the senior year to the spring of the junior year and even earlier."

Along with visiting campuses earlier, Napper said students have been taking standardized tests earlier and more often than in the past.

Despite heightened interest in early options at GW and around the country, two of the nation's most elite schools, Yale and Stanford universities, have elected to cut their early decision programs for the 2004-2005 school year. The schools cite the pressure these binding programs place on applicants, according to a Nov. 22 *Chronicle of Higher Education* report.

"I do not subscribe to (the) viewpoint (that it places too much pressure)," Chernak said. "Many high school students, who know most definitely where they might want to attend school if accepted, appreciate the early notification of their acceptance."

Chernak also said he does not foresee the cutting the option becoming a national trend.

"These pedigree institutions are going to be successful for the most part (in) attracting the students they want to accept," he said.

Chernak and Napper both said GW has no intentions of changing

See ADMISSIONS, p. 17

ADMISSIONS

from p.2

Sixty percent of this year's freshmen were in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes, and Napper said she expects the 2002-2003 applicant pool to be as competitive, if not more, than last year's.

However, this year's numbers will not be available until decisions are finalized this spring.

"We hope that we continue to attract an academically stronger applicant pool," said Napper. "Recent trends would indicate that we would; however, my crystal ball doesn't allow me to predict the future.

–Robyn Keyster contributed to this report.

Admissions wait list hits 2,100

By Elizabeth Chernow and Ludmila Kafanov
Hatchet Reporters

About 2,100 prospective students remain on a waiting list to come to GW in the fall, said Kathryn Napper, director of Undergraduate Admissions.

Last year, the waiting list consisted of 700 students.

The last of the regular decision applicants were notified earlier this month about whether they can come to GW next semester. Prospective students have until Saturday to send in their intent forms and deposits.

Napper said GW will offer admission to about 600 students still on the waiting list by mid-May.

The University plans to admit a class of 2,400 students. Last year, The Hatchet reported that the GW hoped for 2,250 students, but enrolled 2,400.

This year, GW admitted 7,426 undergraduate students for the fall – almost 500 more than last year.

Of the admitted student pool, 6,233, applied through regular decision, while 750 applied through Early Decision I and 443 applied through Early Decision II, both binding programs.

The average incoming student ranked in the top 10 percent of his class and scored a 1315 on the SAT, Napper said.

The University received 20,014 applications for the fall semester, a record number.

Napper said she expects this year's yield rate, or how many students GW accepts versus how many actually plan to attend, to fall around 32.2 percent, a decrease from 34 percent last year.

"This marginal deviation from last year is forecasted to be attributed to competition factors in the conversion stage of admissions activity for higher qualified applicants," she said.

The University also saw a "substantial increase" in accepted Hispanic and black students.

"This increase is due in part to the outreach programs that we instituted in the Admissions Office with our Student Multicultural Admissions Recruitment Team as well as the exceptional work of the Multicultural Student Services Center," Napper said.

Amelia Skolnick, a high school senior from Scarsdale, N.Y., will be attending GW in the fall. She said she was "thrilled" when she found out that she was accepted as an Early Decision I applicant.

Skolnick said she hopes to pursue a humanities major such as English or history. She said she was drawn to the University because of its "great reputation" and location in D.C.

"I love the city," she said. "I didn't want to be in the middle of nowhere." ■

November 10, 2004

All Commissioners
Advisory Neighborhood Council 2A
District of Columbia
C/o Dorothy Miller, Chair
2440 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite D206
Washington, DC 20037

Subject: GWU Expansion beyond the Approved Campus Plan/Boundary

Dear Commissioners:

In your overall deliberations about George Washington University issues, please be aware of GWU's ongoing expansion of its campus beyond the limits of the approved campus plan/boundary.

You must see what GWU calls its Foggy Bottom Campus. Visit www.gwu.edu. In the "Visiting" category, select "Maps of GW," then select the HTML version. You will see all kinds of sites included well beyond the approved campus boundary.

Especially distressing are four off-campus sites in commercial buildings. Until recently, the description for each of those sites was simply "No information is available about this building" despite the fact that classes were being held at at least one of them -- 1776 G Street.

Today, I noticed that some description is given for three of those sites as follows:

> 2100 M Street - "Description: 2100 M St. is home to the following: Desktop Applications Training, University Compliance and Privacy Office, SPHHS Advisors, GW graphic design, Payroll services, GCAS: Grants and Contracts Accounting Services, Procurement card maintenance request. Social Security Administration Office, Department of Health Policy Job Opportunities, and Urban Institute Human Resource (HR) Office."
>
> 2033 K Street - "Description: Here are the offices for the Human Resource Service/Center providing record and data management and benefit services. The University Counseling Center supports Office of Parents Services, Peer tutoring, Professional Training Programs, and self help programs.
>
> Other offices are Administrative Applications (AA), Advancement Data Services, and Software Education and Training."

1776 G Street - "Description: This building houses the classrooms and offices for Engineering Management and Systems Engineering. It also houses the Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management (GWU/ICDRM), and the work station lab for EMSE DSS."

2020 K Street - "No information is available about this building." (Who knows what's brewing there?...)

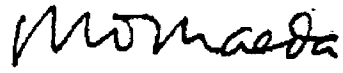
Notice that there is finally an admission that classes are held at 1776 G Street. I work in a building next to it. The area is a business one (World Bank, IMF, Federal Government, etc.). 1776 G Street is three blocks from the campus boundary. GWU's entrance is on the 18th Street side of that building. Go to that area sometime and observe. What a sight! You'll see floods of students traversing that part of G and 18th Streets at times, and in and out of the building. Some are obviously still in their bed clothes, including bedroom slippers. They huddle on the sidewalk in conversation not caring that they're blocking pedestrian traffic, a common practice within the campus boundary (I know because I walk to and from work through the campus). Not only is this particular off-campus expansion illegal as far as I'm concerned, it is so inappropriate even if it were legal!

GWU continues to make a farce of the campus plan system. As if it's not bad enough that it would have all of its students housed off campus, if allowed, it is expanding its classrooms and other operations to off campus locations in the community. Of course, by doing so, GWU is increasing its capacity and, guess what follows -- increased student enrollment. GWU must have an enrollment limit in mind for the future like you and I can't imagine. And it is already working on that. I believe that GWU's development of the large block where the old hospital was does not include any provision for student housing and other university space -- another indication of how GWU plans to continue pushing itself outside the approved campus boundary at the expense of the community.

All of this GWU expansion is going on and it seems no one is doing anything about it. I haven't been able to get anywhere with District government for help so far. I was told that enforcement of the campus plan is the responsibility of the Zoning Enforcement Branch, DCRA. I wrote to the administrator, Denzil Noble, who replied that I should file an appeal of the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or a building permit by DCRA to GWU, for any or all of the properties involved, to the Board of Zoning Adjustment. ??? This is madness!

I would appreciate any help you can provide on this matter. I know that Dorothy Miller has communicated this concern to the chair of the Zoning Commission, in writing along

with another GWU issue. I fear that nothing is being done, so I will send an appeal to the BZA per Denzil Noble's suggestion, as ludicrous as that seems, and see what happens. I will send Dorothy Miller a copy of that.



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