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October 30, 2000

BY HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Sheila Cross Reid, Chair
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: BZA Application No. 16553
George Washington University Campus Plan

Dear Ms. Reid and Members of the Board:

The Applicant, George Washington University, previously filed an objection to the inclusion in the record of the posthearing material filed by Mr. Sol Shalit. In the event the Board chooses to accept that material into the record, enclosed is the Applicant's response which is expressly permitted under Section 3121.6 of the Zoning Regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen E. Dwyer

Allison C. Prince

:lm/1031629

cc: All Parties, by mail

BZA
Case No. 16553
Exhibit No. 241

99-10
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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16553
EXHIBIT NO.55

The George Washington University
WASHINGTON DC

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC PLANNING AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

26 October 2000

Mr. Andrew Altman
Director, Office of Planning
800 North Capitol Street, NE
4th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Re: GW Foggy Bottom Campus Plan
BZA Application No. 16553

Dear Mr. Altman:

I am writing in response to the letter submitted by Mr. Sol S. Shalit, dated 9 October 2000. I would preface my specific remarks with the observation that I find Mr. Shalit's letter remarkably disappointing. Mr. Shalit identifies himself as an Emeritus Professor of Economics. However, as one with a twenty-five year history of scholarly publication, I find his litany of unsubstantiated opinions wholly unworthy of a member of the academy. Retirement from the academy does not release one from its standards of integrity in providing documented information.

Mr. Shalit claims "strong evidence" (Shalit, 2000, page 2) to support his opinions, yet he provides none. I shall provide "strong evidence" that is contradictory to many of Mr. Shalit's assertions. Let us begin with Mr. Shalit's core premise as stated on page 3 of his letter. He refers to a "must grow campaign of ... increased enrollment". He states that The George Washington University (GWU) has a "must grow philosophy" and "an inherent, built-in administrative bias for 'growth'" that "has no boundaries and knows no limits, unless stopped by external constraints." (Shalit, 2000, page 3). These statements are in stark contrast to the *Foggy Bottom Campus Plan, Years 2000 through 2010* that GWU filed with the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA), Filing Date: April 12, 2000. It is clearly stated on page 20 of the Plan that "The cap on students on a headcount basis has not changed from the 1985 Campus Plan to the proposed 2000 Plan." While the relative proportions of students in various categories (e.g., undergraduate vs. graduate vs. nondegree; full-time vs. part-time) may change, the cap on total headcount enrollment is to remain at 20,000. The "strong evidence" is that Mr. Shalit's core assertion is incorrect. There is a limit to the University's enrollment and no additional external constraint is required.

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Mr. Shalit goes on to make the claim that "GWU's enrollment growth is defended not by programmatic need, educational philosophy, or institutional mission" (Shalit, 2000, page 3). Quite to the contrary, in my testimony submitted to the BZA as part of GWU's Campus Plan presentation, I detailed the University's determination to provide today's students – tomorrow's leaders – with an education that prepares them to manage the influences of globalization and technological advancement, while fostering critical thinking and awareness of the human condition. I also addressed the University's commitment to meeting our populations need for professional education and lifelong learning opportunities in order to remain competitive in the new economy. GWU also has made major commitments to the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge as demonstrated by the construction of new research laboratories and the admission of Gelman Library to the Association of Research Libraries (an association of the 121 top research libraries in North America). These commitments and actions are driven by the University's mission and educational philosophy. They are "strong evidence" that GWU is responding to the need for first-rate education and research.

Mr. Shalit also raises questions about the University's raising of funds from foundations and alumni. He implies, without citing any relevant data in either his letter of 9 October or his 26 September testimony to the BZA, that GWU is unsuccessful in this regard. Here again, I shall present "strong evidence" to the contrary.

Expenditures of research funds from external sources (e.g., the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation) have grown from approximately $45.5 million in 1995 to $75.7 million in 2000. Based on 1998 data from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Almanac Issue, September 1, 2000, Vol. 47.1), GW ranked ninety-eighth among all U.S. universities in Federal research and development expenditures.

Philanthropic giving to GWU also has risen dramatically in the past five years. Total philanthropic giving has increased from $24.4 million in 1994 to $44 million in 1999. Alumni giving has increased from $7.3 million in 1994 to $19.8 million in 2000. Significantly, twenty-seven percent of persons who obtained their undergraduate degree from GWU made contributions to the University in 1999. This percentage is comparable to Georgetown University (30%) and significantly greater than Syracuse (20%), American (12%) and Boston (10%) Universities. The "strong evidence" shows that Mr. Shalit is wrong. GWU's alumni do hold the University in high regard and support its mission through their contributions.

There are additional points that should be made regarding deterrents to philanthropic giving with which the University must contend. Prior to 1970, the majority of GWU's students attended the University on a part-time basis. In addition, a majority of GWU alumni were graduate students of whom a significant majority were master's degree students. Being located in Washington, DC also presents a particular challenge to all of

the Universities located in the District. Washington has relatively few native families, and those persons of wealth who reside here frequently maintain strong loyalties to their "hometown" institutions. In addition, Washington is home to very few corporate headquarters. Finally, regarding foundation and corporate funding sources, these institutions rarely make unrestricted contributions to universities. Rather, such contributions are directed toward specific programmatic or research projects and thus do not represent a viable alternative to tuition in generating needed operating funds.

Mr. Shalit next raises questions about GWU's goal of attaining first-tier ranking. The context from which Mr. Shalit approaches this topic is suspect in that the university from which he is retired, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is ranked in the fourth (lowest) tier by U.S. News and World Report (America's Best Colleges, 2001 Edition, U.S. News and World Report, May 2001, page 36). Mr. Shalit implies that as GWU's undergraduate enrollment has increased, the University has lowered its standards. This is not the case. In 1996, seventy percent of freshmen who entered GWU placed in the top twenty percent of their high school graduating class; their mean SAT score (combined verbal and quantitative) was 1210. Of the freshmen class of 2000, seventy-five percent ranked in the top twenty percent of their high school class, and the mean SAT score was 1235. In addition, in 1999 and 2000, GWU admitted less than fifty percent of the applicants for its freshman class (compared with 82% for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee). Here again, the "strong evidence" contradicts Mr. Shalit's assertions. Even as GWU has been able to provide a world-class education to more undergraduate students, the academic qualifications of those students has improved.

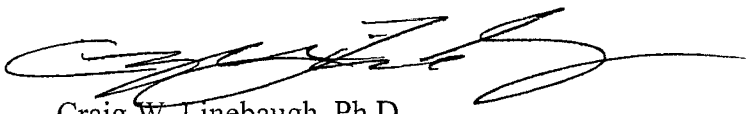
Finally, I would like to share with you an observation regarding Mr. Shalit's comments regarding the "University's Web Home Page" and "the appeal of Washington as a city" (Shalit, 2000, page 5). On this topic, Mr. Shalit's statements are remarkably disingenuous. I've attached for your perusal material from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's (again, the institution at which Mr. Shalit was a member of the faculty) "web home page." Please note that the web page extols the virtues of "an urban university" which "is minutes from many of the city's businesses, theaters, financial institutions, museums, and governmental and community service agencies" and which encourages its students "to recognize and capitalize on the many unique opportunities provided by attending college in Wisconsin's largest and most lucrative job market." With all due respect to Milwaukee, WI, I do not believe that any of us who make Washington, DC our residential and/or professional home would dispute the notion that if Milwaukee is an asset for those affiliated with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Washington, DC is a far greater asset for those affiliated with the universities that are located in the District. After all, Mr. Shalit himself migrated from Milwaukee to Washington.

Has the District done more for GWU than GWU has done for the District? This is, as Mr. Shalit observes, "an open question" (Shalit, 2000, page 5). The District is indeed a marvelous environment which strengthens the University and provides unique opportunities for its students. GWU provides medical care for many of the indigent residents of the District. The University provides scholarships for many graduates of the District's high schools. It provides student volunteers who work in the District's schools and service agencies. The University's students provide assistance to many residents of the Foggy Bottom community and participate in cleanups and other activities which benefit the neighborhood. The University provides venues to support the activities of District organizations ranging from the Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund to the Wagner Society.

Has the District done more for GWU than GWU has done for the District? This is <u>not</u> a question that begs an answer. Rather, the critical response is that The George Washington University and the District of Columbia maintain a close, collaborative relationship that continues to contribute to the development and enrichment of both entities.

I thank you for your attention to the evidence that I have presented in this letter. As always, I will welcome the opportunity to discuss further the University's goals and programs with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,



Craig W. Linebaugh, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Academic Planning
and Special Projects
Professor of Speech and Hearing
Research Professor of Medicine

Attachment

cc: Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
UWMILWAUKEE

About UWM



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As an urban university, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee offers its undergraduate and graduate students a number of clear advantages.

UWM students are encouraged to recognize and capitalize on the many unique opportunities provided by attending college in Wisconsin's largest and most lucrative job market.

UWM's lakeside neighborhood campus is minutes from many of the city's businesses, theaters, financial institutions, museums, and governmental and community service agencies.

Several UWM academic departments have internship programs to augment classroom education with real world work experience -- experience that often is the on-ramp to a successful professional career.

Scholars and researchers are the heart of the UWM teaching force. But, classes often feature guest lecturers and visiting faculty selected from among leading area executives and professionals.

If you'd like to learn more about UWM, please call 229-2222, or explore our web site.

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on October 30, 2000, a copy of the foregoing was hand-delivered to the following:

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