

UNIVERSITY OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

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Thursday,
May 15, 2014

The meeting convened at 5:20 p.m.,
Errol Schwartz, Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS PRESENT:

ERROL SCHWARTZ, Chair
CHRISTOPHER BELL
ELAINE CRIDER
JEROME SHELTON
JOSHUA WYNER

JAMES LYONS, Acting President

ALSO PRESENT:

VALERIE EPPS, Vice-President of Student
Affairs
BEVERLY FRANKLIN, Executive Secretary
JUANITA GRAY, Director of Residence Life
STACIE MILLS, Office of General Counsel
KIMBERLY PENNAMON, Associate Vice President of
Student Affairs

T-A-B-L-E O-F C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(5:20 p.m.)

CHAIR SCHWARTZ: The time is now 5:20 p.m. and I call the Student Affairs Committee meeting to order. Ms. Franklin could you call the roll please?

MS. FRANKLIN: General Schwartz.

CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Here.

MS. FRANKLIN: Mr. Bell.

TRUSTEE BELL: Here.

MS. FRANKLIN: Mr. Shelton.

TRUSTEE SHELTON: Here.

MS. FRANKLIN: Mr. Wyner.

TRUSTEE WYNER: Here.

MS. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chair, you have a quorum.

CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. Thank you Ms. Franklin. The first order is to do a modification to the agenda. I'll entertain a motion to change the agenda to add a discussion on student housing. Say again.

TRUSTEE WYNER: So moved.

1 TRUSTEE BELL: Second.

2 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: It's moved and
3 seconded. So we'll add a discussion of the
4 student housing as item number four, and the
5 closing remarks will be item number five.

6 First item is the approval of the
7 minutes. I'll entertain a motion to accept
8 minutes as written, or are there any
9 corrections?

10 (Off the record comments)

11 TRUSTEE BELL: I'd like to make a
12 motion to approve the minutes.

13 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: One second.

14 TRUSTEE BELL: Oh, I'm sorry.

15 TRUSTEE EPPS: Excuse me, Valerie
16 Epps, Vice President of the Student Affairs.
17 Under Veterans Affairs, it says Dr. Epps
18 reported that the VREP Program was extended.
19 And that acronym should be VRAP, capital V,
20 capital R, capital A, capital P. That was the
21 only correction that I saw.

22 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. What's

1 that acronym stands for, VRAP?

2 TRUSTEE EPPS: I'm not able to
3 answer that. I can get back with you, I've
4 seen that, on that one.

5 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: And we will show
6 that the minutes will be modified to show the
7 reading out of the acronym VRAP on the
8 Veterans Affairs.

9 Now I'll entertain a motion to
10 accept the minutes with the corrections.

11 TRUSTEE SHELTON: So moved.

12 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: So moved by Mr.
13 Shelton.

14 TRUSTEE BELL: Second.

15 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Seconded by Mr.
16 Bell. Thank you.

17 TRUSTEE WYNER: And I abstain.

18 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Yes, thank you.
19 One abstention. Understood.

20 TRUSTEE WYNER: Due to lack of
21 presence at the --

22 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Want to vote?

1 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. As you
2 aware that we had Trustee Isaacs as the
3 student rep on the committee. He graduated
4 from the Law School and is no longer with the
5 University. Another lawyer in town.

6 MALE PARTICIPANT: Just what we
7 need.

8 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: But there were
9 some technicalities which caused the student
10 elections not to be completed. And therefore
11 we would like to modify the agenda, or the
12 table, the time table, the time line so that
13 we can have a special elections.

14 And this special time line is in
15 your folder showing when the next elections
16 will take place. And when we expect that to
17 be completed. Any discussions on that time
18 line?

19 We're hoping that the special
20 elections can be completed by October,
21 therefore we will have a student rep on the
22 Board.

1 There is one concern that I have
2 is that any meetings that we have, and there's
3 not a student rep available, I'm concerned
4 that the students are not appropriately
5 represented at the Board.

6 So we need to come up with a way
7 to make sure that they are there is some
8 representation for the students at any of the
9 committee meetings or the Board meetings.

10 TRUSTEE EPPS: Trustee Schwartz,
11 one of the things I thought about is inviting,
12 a special invite to our student government
13 leaders who are brand new, and anxious, and
14 eager to participate in the happenings of the
15 University, and provide their input.

16 An example of that was we just
17 recently held a cultural climate meeting at
18 the University. And so we did have
19 representation from some of the student
20 organizations.

21 What I'd like to do for future
22 Board Members to ensure that, Board meetings

1 rather, to ensure that we have some student
2 input or opinions is to inform the student
3 government leaders what's going on. And also
4 to ask them to attend the Board meetings.

5 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: As a part of the
6 audience, not as a part of the --

7 TRUSTEE EPPS: Yes, as a part of
8 the audience in case they wanted to express
9 any opinions.

10 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Are there any
11 legal concerns on that process that we just
12 discussed from the general counsel's
13 perspective?

14 (No response)

15 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. So we'll
16 look to Student Affairs to pass it onto the
17 student body and let them know whenever
18 there's a Student Affairs meeting or a Board
19 meeting --

20 TRUSTEE EPPS: Yes.

21 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: -- so that they
22 can be present in the audience and we let them

1 share. If we can make sure that we
2 acknowledge their presence in the future.

3 TRUSTEE SHELTON: One question.

4 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Go ahead, Trustee
5 Shelton.

6 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Is there, is it
7 possible to have some sort of line of
8 succession should the term of the Student
9 Trustee be disrupted? Or some sort of plan
10 for succession? And how does the changing of
11 the dates affect the term of that position?
12 Changing the election date?

13 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Yes, stand by,
14 we're asking for a legal opinion on that. I'd
15 rather not, I think the term should remain the
16 same?

17 MALE PARTICIPANT: I think the
18 term would remain the same.

19 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: The term remains
20 the same. And we have just as we spoke about
21 earlier have some representation in the room
22 to look out for the interest of the students

1 during that time period. But we will not
2 interrupt the term. Because I think the terms
3 are set.

4 MS. MILLS: That's correct. Stacy
5 Mills, Office of General Counsel. The term is
6 statutory, so May 15th is the end of the term
7 regardless of when the Student Trustee starts.

8 Regarding the succession plan,
9 there isn't necessarily a succession plan in
10 the way we think of it, President, Vice
11 President.

12 But the DCMR does have a provision
13 for if the seat becomes vacant for any reason,
14 it has very specific rules on how and when the
15 seat would be filled.

16 So if it's after a certain date,
17 then they make certain provisions. If it's
18 before a certain date then they call for an
19 election to fill the seat.

20 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Okay.

21 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Thank you much.

22 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Thank you --

1 TRUSTEE EPPS: And also the
2 student would still be eligible for the same
3 benefit in terms of tuition benefits.

4 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Okay. Thank
5 you.

6 TRUSTEE BELL: I'm sorry. So
7 there's no provision then for the appointment
8 of an interim? Nothing like that at all?

9 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: So if a student
10 has already paid their fees, if you will, for
11 the fall semester. And is elected through
12 this special election process, retroactively
13 they'll get credit for any fees for the fall
14 semester?

15 MS. MILLS: That's correct.

16 (Off the record comments)

17 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. One of the
18 issues that created this problem is the number
19 of signatures. There was some technical and
20 some substantive changes that had to be made.
21 And I'll have Dr. Epps if you could explain
22 those and then we'll go through what we need

1 to do as a resolution to make sure that we can
2 overcome this in the future.

3 TRUSTEE EPPS: Okay. One of the
4 problems that we've had in the past with the
5 last, I guess, three elections that I've been
6 employed at the University, is always the
7 signatures. We've had issues in terms of the
8 verification of 100 signatures.

9 And for this particular election,
10 one of the candidates, as in the past, turned
11 in over 100 signatures but still we're
12 required to have 100 signatures that are
13 legible, and also can be verified.

14 And so this election even though
15 the person, one of the candidates turned in
16 over 100 signatures, we still could not verify
17 but 95.

18 And in previous elections we have
19 also asked the Board, come to the Board and
20 asked them to lower the number to 50 or 75
21 because we had problems in verifying those
22 signatures.

1 So instead of coming to the Board
2 to ask them to lower the number, it was
3 decided that since we had two candidates and
4 neither one had 95 verifiable signatures, that
5 we would just have another election in the
6 fall and ask the Board formally to lower the
7 signature requirement to 25.

8 Those signatures however would
9 still have to be verified and we will
10 certainly ask students to turn in more than 25
11 because we don't want to get back to the same
12 problem, that someone turns in 25 or 30 and we
13 still don't have enough signatures for the
14 person to be eligible to be a full-fledged
15 candidate.

16 So that is the rationale for us
17 asking for the number of signatures to be
18 verified. Also sometimes it's very hard for
19 our students to get signatures now-a-days
20 because some people don't want to provide
21 their signatures and their ID numbers because
22 of the Identify theft problem.

1 So this makes it easier on
2 students. They can still be out in the
3 community collecting signatures, but they
4 don't have to have as many verified.

5 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. Questions
6 about the issue? To that end we will forward
7 the resolution to the Board to have those
8 numbers reduced from 100 to 25.

9 So the President and the Vice
10 President of Student Affairs recommend that
11 the number of signatures verified for a
12 petition to be valid be reduced from 100 to
13 25. And we will propose, or forward this
14 resolution to the Committee of the Whole, the
15 Board of Trustees actually.

16 TRUSTEE SHELTON: So moved. They
17 need to vote don't they?

18 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. So do you
19 have, do you have a copy of the resolution
20 with you, Mr. Shelton?

21 TRUSTEE SHELTON: I've read it,
22 yes.

1 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. So I
2 accept the motion to accept this resolution as
3 written.

4 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Yes.

5 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: So moved by Mr.
6 Shelton.

7 TRUSTEE BELL: Second.

8 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Seconded by Mr.
9 Bell. Discussions?

10 TRUSTEE WYNER: So how did we
11 arrive, excuse me, so how did we arrive at 25?
12 Rather than, it sounds like the candidates
13 both came pretty close to this number.

14 TRUSTEE EPPS: Yes.

15 TRUSTEE WYNER: So why are we
16 lowering the threshold? I mean it does seem
17 to me that there's something to be said for
18 having enough people that are willing to sign
19 a piece of paper to say, we want you to serve
20 on the Board. And I'm just wondering why
21 we're going all the way down from 100 to 25?

22 TRUSTEE EPPS: Well we --

1 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Mr. Bell.

2 TRUSTEE BELL: No. Yes, that's
3 not me though.

4 TRUSTEE WYNER: No, I'm sorry.
5 Excuse me, yes, this was Josh Wyner.

6 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Go ahead, Mr.
7 Shelton, you have a question?

8 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: I guess, so go
9 ahead Valerie.

10 TRUSTEE EPPS: Okay.

11 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Hello. Are you
12 still there, connected?

13 TRUSTEE EPPS: Yes.

14 TRUSTEE SHELTON: Okay.

15 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Did you have a
16 question, Mr. Shelton?

17 TRUSTEE SHELTON: No, I was trying
18 to respond to Mr. Bell. Mr. Bell, I've been
19 around three student and alumni elections?
20 And every year we are challenged with the time
21 lines and the number of signatures.

22 And it's been a problem that has

1 filtered through every election that I can,
2 and the last three elections I believe have
3 all been challenged by numbers and time lines.

4 And we've gotten great candidates
5 but not receiving the talent of the young
6 people. But it's a very narrow field of
7 people. And apparently it's been difficult to
8 get confirmed signatures.

9 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. I think
10 the real question on the table was why the
11 drastic drop from 100 to 25. Because as Vice
12 President Epps just spoke about, there were 95
13 verified signatures by one candidate, which is
14 not very far from 100, if you will.

15 TRUSTEE WYNER: And the other, how
16 many did the, pardon me. How many did the
17 other have? How many verified signatures for
18 the second candidate?

19 TRUSTEE EPPS: Was 95 signatures.

20 TRUSTEE WYNER: For both.

21 TRUSTEE EPPS: For both
22 candidates.

1 TRUSTEE WYNER: For each
2 candidate.

3 TRUSTEE EPPS: But one candidate
4 turned in over 100 and it dropped down to 95.
5 The other candidate turned in 95 signatures,
6 but also was not eligible because was not in
7 financial, in good standing with the
8 University.

9 So that person was automatically
10 disqualified because one of the first
11 requirements is that you have to be in good
12 financial standing with the University.

13 That was just the, the number 25
14 is not a magical number. We just wanted to,
15 it was a number based upon success. We've had
16 the number of signatures in the past range
17 probably from 25 to oh, like I said, to over
18 100.

19 But then when you go back and
20 verify them, sometimes we've had to go back
21 and come back to the Board like I said a few
22 times to ask them to go down to, I think 25 or

1 50. And so it wasn't, wasn't set in stone.

2 TRUSTEE WYNER: And so there's
3 been a history where it's gone down that low.
4 I guess the question is really, is there any
5 value in having the candidates go out and
6 collect these signatures? I mean what's the
7 value here?

8 If we think that there's not a lot
9 of value, then I think 25 is fine. If we
10 think that trying to get them to gather
11 signatures is something that has some value,
12 there's an educational experience there, and
13 trying to sell yourself to others and get them
14 to sign up, and maybe getting other people in
15 the community involved, then you know, larger
16 may make sense.

17 I was just curious how we arrived
18 at 25? But if we don't think that the value
19 of going beyond 25 is significant for either
20 the community or the candidate, I'm
21 comfortable with that number.

22 TRUSTEE BELL: And I'm curious

1 with the student government elections, is
2 there a requirement also for those can --

3 TRUSTEE EPPS: No.

4 TRUSTEE BELL: So there's no
5 requirement.

6 TRUSTEE EPPS: This is the only I
7 guess, office, that requires the signatures
8 and certainly that's been passed around and
9 pontificated on, in terms of whether we should
10 even have signatures or not.

11 But some people felt strongly that
12 we should, that it you know, makes the student
13 get out into the community to meet and greet
14 people. That it forces them to do that.

15 And others you know, might say
16 it's not. So this was like a compromise of
17 opinions that we have, input that we had
18 received.

19 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: And this student
20 represents not only the flagship, but the
21 community college and the Law School?

22 TRUSTEE EPPS: That's correct.

1 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: And I'm
2 struggling here also with whether 25 is that
3 right magical number across the three areas of
4 the University.

5 And but, as you said there is
6 nothing magical about 25, but is we think that
7 there is value in the student getting out and
8 if you will, soliciting votes from the three
9 areas then is 25 that right number?

10 TRUSTEE EPPS: Kim, did you have
11 an opinion?

12 MS. PENNAMON: Kimberly Pennamon,
13 Associate Vice President of the Student
14 Affairs. We have had this issue historically.
15 The bigger issue I think is, even if we lower
16 the number, what happens if the students
17 presenting applications get 20 or 21
18 signatures, as opposed to the 25?

19 So I think it would be helpful for
20 us to perhaps maybe consider including a
21 contingency plan, that if they still fall
22 within a margin of error of signatures, what

1 will happen?

2 Because we've gotten to this point
3 in the past three elections where we've
4 reached almost 100, almost 50, almost 75. And
5 in the previous cases, students have gotten
6 over 100 signatures. In this case both
7 candidates had over 100 signatures. And we
8 were only able to verify 95.

9 PRESIDENT LYONS: Kim don't go. I
10 haven't asked this question before, but I'll
11 ask it now. Have you been able to confirm or
12 document that students are deriving social
13 benefit? I mean has anybody actually
14 monitored it?

15 I mean, you know, there are Greek
16 Letter organizations that require pledges,
17 quote, to go out and get the signatures of all
18 the members.

19 The assumption is that you will
20 then engage in a conversation with those
21 members. They would find out a little bit
22 about you and you about them as a part of the

1 organization. So the rationale makes sense if
2 those conversations take place.

3 Now when you're requiring 100
4 signatures, are we to assume that the person
5 engaged in 100 conversations about something
6 material, or did they just go out and say hey,
7 would you sign this paper?

8 I mean I think that there's a
9 fundamental question being asked here because,
10 and when you said well if we go down to 25 and
11 somebody only gets 20, we'll be back in the
12 same situation.

13 MALE PARTICIPANT: That's correct.

14 PRESIDENT LYONS: And I made the
15 decision not to waive or not to recommend that
16 we waive the requirement, and certainly I
17 would not want to be around in August when you
18 say 25 signatures and then find out that we
19 could only verify 23. And we're back in the
20 same boat. I think that's the bigger issue
21 here.

22 So, have you ever in your

1 experience documented that there is a social
2 benefit of some kind that makes gathering
3 signatures worth it?

4 MS. PENNAMON: I will say that in
5 the past three elections, they varied. In
6 some cases there has been some engagement
7 between the potential candidates and the
8 constituents, so to say.

9 In some cases however, and the
10 guidelines do allow for this, that they will
11 get friends or peers to take those sheets
12 around for them and collect those particular
13 signatures.

14 Now it was my understanding that
15 this came about as kind of a model of district
16 government guidelines where they go and get
17 signatures from constituents in the city.

18 And that we were trying to mimic
19 what was being done in the city. There is
20 some dialog, but it has varied from election
21 to election.

22 TRUSTEE EPPS: This also modeled

1 in the design for the Alumni Trustees, those
2 Trustees that are alumni. And they had to get
3 a certain amount of signatures when I first
4 came here.

5 I don't know if that still exists
6 but that was, I guess it's just those alumni
7 that were running for Trustee positions then.
8 That was also carried over to the Student
9 Trustee position as well.

10 TRUSTEE WYNER: I'm sorry. I just
11 want one last question. What happens
12 afterwards? Are there any debates or
13 conversations among folks about what they
14 would do? I mean how does the vote then
15 happen?

16 What happens after the signatures
17 are gathered? Are there serious conversations
18 about what they'd want to do as a member of a
19 member of the Board of Trustees? What the
20 gaps are that they see in student offerings,
21 or something?

22 MS. PENNAMON: So the process

1 involves, after the signatures are submitted,
2 we have the process of verification. And
3 that's where we go and we speak with, or
4 actually get verifications from the Office of
5 the Registrar as well as the Office of Student
6 Accounts to see if they meet the academic and
7 financial criteria that's set forth by the
8 guidelines.

9 Once that's done then we proceed
10 with the time line, which could potentially
11 include a meet and greet the candidates. So
12 that's an opportunity where, and it depends
13 again with each particular set of candidates.

14 They can decide we want to have a
15 debate. We can decide that oh, we want to
16 just have it where constituents can come into
17 a room. We can speak for a few minutes and
18 answer and entertain questions.

19 Or in some cases they may just
20 want to stand out and interact with their
21 constituents in the different buildings and so
22 forth. So we've used each model for the past

1 three years.

2 TRUSTEE WYNER: So I guess that to
3 me the bigger question here is, I think having
4 a student voice in this body is really
5 important. And I think that, that student
6 voice should be somebody that has the trust
7 and respect of their peers. And is here to
8 represent a perspective that people understand
9 when they're voting.

10 And so while I'm comfortable with
11 the policy as proposed whether it's 25 or 50
12 perhaps, you know, I'm not, I wouldn't stand
13 in the way of that. But I think there's a
14 broader question here.

15 And you know we know that lots of
16 students are bowling alone these days and I
17 might sound like an old guy here, but the
18 question here is how do we foster that kind of
19 engagement? Because I know that all of us
20 believe that students are at the center of the
21 work that we do.

22 And if we're not finding that

1 they're engaged, either because they're not
2 signing each other's petitions or going out
3 and talking to one another, that to me is the
4 deeper question.

5 So again, I think this is the, a
6 tip of the iceberg kind of indication that
7 there's more work to do. And I think that the
8 elections are one way that we can make sure
9 that their voice is represented in governance.

10 So I just wanted to make that
11 statement and see whether we collectively can
12 think a little bit and maybe you have ideas
13 about particularly in regards to the
14 elections, how we use this process, to engage
15 students further?

16 (Simultaneous speaking)

17 MS. PENNAMON: Absolutely to
18 promote and engage specifically --

19 TRUSTEE WYNER: So I would welcome
20 those ideas that you have.

21 TRUSTEE BELL: And it's
22 interesting. I actually thought you were

1 going in the opposite direction. I'm not sure
2 that it's valid and necessary having the
3 signature requirement because under, and with
4 the two candidates you have now, had we not
5 had the signature requirement we theoretically
6 would have a Trustee right now, a Student
7 Trustee.

8 MS. PENNAMON: That's correct.

9 TRUSTEE BELL: And so, you know,
10 we have student leaders that are being elected
11 that don't have any petition requirement. I'd
12 hate to get down to August and then we have
13 another snafu and it's 21, or 20, or what have
14 you.

15 And so if the students are in good
16 standing, if they're enrolled, if they're full
17 time, you know, it seems like to me then that
18 should be sufficient in order for them to be
19 eligible.

20 And then in terms of doing
21 candidate forums or what have you, to do
22 engagement, you know, I think that's where

1 that part comes in.

2 And ideally there would be forums,
3 you know, at the community college, as well at
4 the flagship. And that all students would be
5 signing, if they are signing. So I'm, you
6 know, the more and more we talk about this.
7 I'm not even sure that we need a signature
8 requirement at all. And then we wouldn't have
9 had this issue.

10 And we'd have a Student Trustee
11 because now we're looking at October. You get
12 on October and then we have the holiday break
13 and so now the Student Trustee is going to be
14 serving what, on two or three meetings maybe?
15 Or get to attend?

16 MS. PENNAMON: Possibly, at least
17 for the semester. Yes.

18 TRUSTEE BELL: Yes, so it's a real
19 disadvantage to be coming in so late in the
20 year, so.

21 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: But if you look
22 at the effectiveness of the Student Trustee as

1 a representative of the students across the
2 campus, that's all three areas. How do we
3 know that, that trustee is bringing the needs
4 of all the students, if they're not out there
5 engaging them?

6 We have a task force on the
7 Student Affairs and I don't think that was
8 very effective because there has been nothing
9 coming to the Board from that task force.

10 So we just have to look at what
11 are the ways that we can get out and talk to
12 the students and make sure that when that
13 trustee comes to the table, he or she is
14 bringing the values, the needs, the wants, the
15 ideas of the students.

16 And what better way than going out
17 there and soliciting those, candidates?

18 TRUSTEE BELL: Well ideally that
19 would help them. I was just going to say
20 ideally that would work, as that you know,
21 ideally that they've gone out they've
22 solicited, gotten the signatures, and they're

1 coming, and they're ready.

2 You know, I've heard instances
3 where that always wasn't the case necessarily
4 after they got on. So you know, the threshold
5 issues of whether getting the signatures,
6 whether that facilitates that, I'm not sure if
7 that's the case.

8 I mean we want a trustee that's
9 on, and it's not just the Student Trustees,
10 all the trustees obviously need to be engaged
11 and reaching out, and trying to interact with
12 students. And so making them meet the
13 signature requirement, I'm not sure that, that
14 does that.

15 PRESIDENT LYONS: Not if they send
16 it out with their friends.

17 (Simultaneous speaking)

18 TRUSTEE WYNER: Well but that
19 doesn't bother me. I mean if they have --

20 PRESIDENT LYONS: They're not
21 engaging though.

22 TRUSTEE WYNER: Well but they're

1 engaging their friends who are willing to go
2 out on their behalf. I mean you know it's a
3 different strategy.

4 So to me I would like to see some
5 threshold of signatures. Because I think to
6 me it's actually just about seriousness of
7 effort. I'd hate to have a bunch of people
8 say, yes, you should. Yes, I'll do it. And
9 then you've got three or four candidates and
10 there's no debate.

11 And we end up with somebody who's
12 really never thought about it at all. It's a
13 beauty contest and not related at all to what
14 they want to bring to the Board. So I do
15 think that some signatures just suggest to me
16 that they've got a little bit of skin in the
17 game, honestly.

18 TRUSTEE BELL: But don't you
19 think, but separate and apart from the
20 signatures, once you get the signatures, you
21 can still do the candidate forums and seminars
22 and all that.

1 TRUSTEE WYNER: Yes, so maybe 25
2 is enough.

3 (Simultaneous speaking)

4 MS. PENNAMON: And there still is
5 a campaign period also in which they still
6 have to go out and campaign and interact with
7 their peers.

8 TRUSTEE EPPS: Some candidates are
9 more active than others. Some go to the
10 community college and they go to the Law
11 School. Sometimes we've even had the
12 candidate, pictures of the candidates and they
13 did videos on --

14 MS. PENNAMON: On the Web.

15 TRUSTEE EPPS: -- on the web.
16 That we put on the website. So no matter
17 what, you know, what day you were on campus if
18 you missed the personal presentation.

19 You can always look at the, you
20 know, the campaign speeches, the forums from
21 your bed if you'd like. But, so it did offer
22 candidates an opportunity to reach out

1 electronically to those student populations as
2 well.

3 MS. PENNAMON: And Ms. Mills just
4 reminded us that it's, the signatures are
5 statutory so I believe that we are bound to
6 keep --

7 TRUSTEE WYNER: To have something.

8 MS. PENNAMON: Yes.

9 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. All right.
10 Well that solves that problem. All those in
11 favor of this resolution as written, with the
12 25 signatures being the requirement, signify
13 by saying, aye.

14 (Chorus of ayes)

15 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Those opposed?
16 The ayes have it.

17 The next topic that we added was
18 student housing. And I was fortunate to visit
19 the campus just a couple weeks ago and walk
20 through the housing as students were
21 departing. And I must say I was very pleased
22 with what we're providing.

1 However there was one item I'd
2 like to bring to the Board and that's the five
3 students per apartment versus four. I think
4 as I walked through the Consulate and the
5 other one, the --

6 TRUSTEE EPPS: The Archstone.

7 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: -- the Archstone,
8 I looked at both apartments. I think the five
9 students per apartment was really a rough life
10 if you will. With students on bunk beds et
11 cetera, et cetera.

12 I would like to see a better
13 student life in those apartments and I'll ask
14 you to come and give your opinion of what you
15 thought of those apartments.

16 MS. GRAY: Juanita Gray, Director
17 of Residence Life. So currently we have two
18 apartment complexes that house our students.
19 We have the Archstone Van Ness, which houses
20 four students per apartment, two in each
21 bedroom.

22 And currently the Consulate which

1 houses five people per apartment, three in one
2 bedroom on a bunk bed and two in the other
3 bedroom.

4 Though the rooms do, or though the
5 Consulate apartments do have two bathrooms, so
6 the students do have a better ratio where
7 bathrooms are concerned, the space in the
8 Consulate is much smaller so the students
9 really are packed in there like sardines.

10 We have some of our bigger
11 athletes who literally are on top of each
12 other. And it makes it just an uncomfortable
13 living situation for the students and we want
14 to make it as comfortable as possible.

15 We're currently, I'm working with
16 Dr. Epps, Paris, I forget his last --

17 TRUSTEE EPPS: Sanders.

18 MS. GRAY: -- Paris Sanders and
19 our CFO. And looking at the price that we
20 charge students for housing compared to what
21 we're offering them. We have to factor in the
22 furniture rental. We have to factor in

1 utilities. We have to factor in the cable,
2 the internet that we provide.

3 So we're currently looking at
4 raising the prices for the apartments for next
5 year by a percentage. But we're also looking
6 at lowering the bed spaces in those apartments
7 as well.

8 TRUSTEE EPPS: And the furniture.

9 MALE PARTICIPANT: What do they --
10 oh, go ahead.

11 TRUSTEE EPPS: I'm sorry, the
12 furniture we're planning on, we've been
13 renting furniture for three years now and we
14 figure it's time to start purchasing
15 furniture, even if we have to do it a little
16 bit at a time.

17 Maybe half and half or whatever we
18 can afford in terms of our budget and still be
19 able to, you know, break even or have a
20 profit.

21 MS. GRAY: So we're slowing
22 phasing in furniture. I've replaced one of

1 the mattresses that we're renting from Brook's
2 Furniture. Took out some of the bunk beds
3 just for a summer conference group that we
4 have coming in. I requested four spaces
5 instead of five.

6 I still have the bunk beds just in
7 case we have to put them back up for fall, but
8 we bought sixteen new mattresses to try to
9 phase out how much we're spending on rental
10 furniture.

11 I've also met with one furniture
12 company this past Monday. He gave me some
13 numbers on what it would look like to phase in
14 desks, tables, chairs, things like that for
15 the apartments.

16 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Well we have a
17 contract for the furniture, when does that
18 expire?

19 MS. GRAY: That I would have to
20 get the exact date on. I believe it's a
21 continual contract. It's a, almost a monthly.

22 TRUSTEE EPPS: It's probably in

1 the fall.

2 MS. GRAY: Yes.

3 TRUSTEE EPPS: I'm sure it is, all
4 them around August.

5 MS. GRAY: Around August. Most of
6 our contracts end around August and replenish
7 again.

8 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: When I looked at
9 the desks for example, in the Consulate versus
10 those in Archstone, there were some huge
11 desks. Executive desks in those small
12 apartments. Is there a possibility of
13 changing those out to smaller desks?

14 MS. GRAY: Absolutely. If we
15 purchase the desks, and I have a brochure that
16 I can pass around and give you an idea of what
17 I'm looking at in terms of purchasing desks.
18 If we continue to rent the Brook's Furniture,
19 they, I've had a conversation with them the
20 other day. And they can't provide the
21 quantity that we need.

22 So we need to look into another

1 furniture rental company in order to get
2 smaller desks. But if we purchase them and
3 just have them our self. That is a
4 possibility.

5 And the cost of purchasing is
6 equal to the amount that we are, it's actually
7 less, than the amount that we rent. It is a
8 bigger cost up front. Up front is always a
9 bigger cost. But when you add up how much we
10 spend renting, it's way less to purchase.

11 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: So what I would
12 like to do is to have an assessment done of
13 the entire agreement for student housing, and
14 if you could present a plan showing us what
15 the cost would be for rental versus
16 purchasing.

17 What the cost of our monies lost
18 would be for moving from five students per
19 apartment to four. And what, how can we
20 offset that cost? You mentioned earlier by
21 increasing the rent, if you will.

22 MS. GRAY: Yes.

1 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: So where is that
2 break point? So that we can offset the number
3 of beds lost. I thought you said we're going
4 to lose eight beds.

5 MS. GRAY: We would. And I can
6 give you a small estimate right now. We would
7 lose eight spaces at \$8400 per academic year.
8 That's a total of \$67,200 we would lose.
9 However, I have summer conferences that I have
10 coming in, added revenue to our budget for the
11 year.

12 I want to share with the Board, I
13 have four confirmed conferences, 25 confirmed
14 interns that are moving in for the summer.
15 And then another 20 students who are living
16 with us over the summer as well.

17 So right now I'm projected to
18 bring in \$198,000 just in summer revenue. So
19 I think that can help offset the \$67,000 that
20 we would be losing if we went down to eight
21 beds.

22 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: And it's all

1 about the student life. You mentioned earlier
2 packing in like sardines and I think it would
3 improve the student life by having four
4 individuals per apartment rather than five.

5 MS. GRAY: Absolutely, yes.

6 TRUSTEE BELL: So this was
7 discussed when we were looking at the student
8 housing. And part of the reason why we needed
9 that five was because that kept the number,
10 the rental number lower for the students in a
11 range that was acceptable.

12 So if we remove one, then in
13 essence you're doing a rental increase. Or
14 you're thinking that the, you're going to have
15 a cross subsidy because you're going to have
16 this money coming in from these summer
17 programs? So that will offset the nine months
18 of student living during the school year?

19 MS. GRAY: It will offset it, but
20 at the same time when students, and I've been
21 here for about two months so I'm going off of
22 information that I've received.

1 But when students are presented
2 with the five bedroom spaces, it's not
3 something that's really, they don't want it.

4 TRUSTEE BELL: That's right, yes.

5 MS. GRAY: So we also have the
6 probability of losing money because no one
7 wants to go into that fifth space.

8 TRUSTEE BELL: That's right.

9 MS. GRAY: So we can make it four
10 spaces. We can look at increases because of
11 the amenities that they're receiving. I can
12 do different prices because they have two
13 bathrooms as opposed to one bathroom over in
14 the Archstone.

15 There's lots of ways that we can
16 configure it and justify, and it's not that we
17 just want to charge students extra money
18 willy-nilly. We're charging them for the
19 services that they're being provided.

20 TRUSTEE BELL: And so then how
21 many students then would be served because at
22 the Consulate wasn't it going to be, was it 75

1 students?

2 MS. GRAY: There's --

3 TRUSTEE BELL: I might be getting
4 my numbers mixed up. I don't remember what
5 the numbers were of the students that were
6 going to be served.

7 MS. GRAY: There's currently 40 at
8 the five bed spaces.

9 TRUSTEE BELL: So then that would
10 mean 32 students would now be served going
11 forward if we adopt this?

12 MS. GRAY: Yes, and we have also
13 been approved to add five more, five
14 additional apartments, which would also bring
15 in additional revenue.

16 TRUSTEE BELL: Okay, and so, and
17 then are we 100 percent occupied as well over
18 there? What's the occupancy rate?

19 MS. GRAY: For right now, for
20 summer we have one conference group that's
21 occupying four of the apartment's spaces. And
22 they will be there until August, they move in

1 next week.

2 (Simultaneous speaking)

3 MS. GRAY: Oh, in semester?

4 TRUSTEE BELL: Yes, during the
5 school year because I know some problems with
6 like one or two units trying to keep them
7 full, so. Are you able to say what the
8 occupancy rate was for the school year?

9 MS. GRAY: For the academic, for
10 spring semester we were down 10 spaces total.
11 That was seven in the Archstone and three in
12 the Consulate.

13 TRUSTEE EPPS: But for fall we
14 were 100 percent.

15 MS. GRAY: For fall we were 100
16 percent according to the records that I've
17 seen.

18 TRUSTEE BELL: And so, and do you
19 know what your fall of 2015 is going to be
20 already or is it too soon?

21 MS. GRAY: It's too soon to tell
22 but I'm banking at 110 percent actually.

1 TRUSTEE BELL: That's going to be
2 for 100 percent?

3 TRUSTEE EPPS: 110 percent?

4 MS. GRAY: I plan on having a nice
5 waiting list of students.

6 TRUSTEE BELL: Okay. Well this is
7 good to know obviously.

8 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Yes, yes.

9 TRUSTEE BELL: Because I mean the
10 Board has expressed an interest in having
11 student housing if the numbers aligned. And
12 so if we see that, that demand is strong and
13 that the students are interested, and we can
14 make the economics work. I mean, this is the
15 first step towards moving us toward that
16 vision of on campus housing.

17 MS. GRAY: Absolutely.

18 TRUSTEE EPPS: And I want to say
19 this was the first, this is the first year
20 that the Law School has invited the housing
21 staff to come down and make a presentation to
22 our Law School students.

1 In our meeting again we've had on
2 cultural climate, the other day we had a
3 couple of students there and there was a
4 question, what do you think the, if the
5 University is really serious, what do you
6 think that they ought to do?

7 So one of the students was a, was
8 really the President of the Graduate Student
9 Association, and he said we needed to provide
10 more graduate housing and more housing for
11 International Students.

12 And so I think that also having
13 four to a room makes that more attractive to
14 an older student. It's been my experience in
15 housing before that young students you can put
16 them anywhere. You could probably put six in
17 a room and they won't hassle you that first
18 year.

19 But the minute then they become a
20 sophomore, they'll either move off campus or
21 they're going to move some place where they
22 can have a little bit more room, a little bit

1 more privacy.

2 TRUSTEE BELL: And have we
3 explored, I think I asked this department,
4 that new construction that's going on for I
5 don't know if those are apartments or condos,
6 where the Pier One used to be.

7 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Condos.

8 TRUSTEE BELL: Will that be
9 condos?

10 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Yes.

11 TRUSTEE BELL: Okay, well that
12 takes care of that then.

13 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: One more
14 question, Juanita, before you leave. Have you
15 done any exploration of the electronic locks?

16 MS. GRAY: I'm still in the
17 process of that. This weekend I had move-out
18 with the students, and cleaners and painters,
19 and so my plate has been a little full.

20 But I will have that information
21 for you by next week. I'll email it to you.

22 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Okay. We just

1 want to look at the cost, benefits, there --

2 MS. GRAY: Absolutely.

3 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: -- and re-keying,
4 and security being the number one on the list.

5 MS. GRAY: Absolutely.

6 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Because there are
7 cases where people may duplicate the keys et
8 cetera. Okay. Great, thank you much.

9 MS. GRAY: Thank you.

10 TRUSTEE BELL: Thank you.

11 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: That concludes
12 the meeting. I'll entertain a motion to
13 adjourn.

14 PRESIDENT LYONS: You forgot your
15 close. You don't have any closing remarks.

16 PRESIDENT LYONS: Oh, no remarks.
17 Mr. President, do you have any closing
18 remarks?

19 CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Entertain a
20 motion to adjourn? Okay. We'll continue.

21 MALE PARTICIPANT: Was I supposed,
22 motion to close.

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TRUSTEE BELL: Second. I'm sorry.

CHAIR SCHWARTZ: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting in the
above-entitled matter was concluded at 6:02
p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Board of Trustees: Committee Meeting

Before: Errol Schwartz

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2014

Place: UDC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
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true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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