University of the District of Columbia
Van Ness Campus Master Plan
Community Open House 2 – Public Comments

Nov 8, 2010
Note

For those who made it to the Community Open House 2, thank you so much for your participation and feedback.

In this document, we have included all comments gathered at the open house in a verbatim manner.
Transportation

1. Pedestrian conflict with cars – S turning west into Veazy
   • Car turning quickly into pedestrians crossing
   • CAPA Study
   • Conflicts highest level in the AM rush hour
   • Traffic back-up, cross-walks blocked
   • Side & street access to metro difficult
2. Develop technology cross-walk enforcement
3. What about underground pathways like from Giants to your campus?
4. Pedestrian and vehicle traffic conflicts at Van Ness
5. Develop Fleet of zero emissions car sharing program – student and community based membership
6. More retail along Connecticut Avenue
7. Greater publication of campus events
8. Livelier entry points to the campus events
9. Diminish car use to reduce traffic at crosswalks, sidewalks, etc.
10. UDC adds to problems. June 2011 funding plan for CAPA recommendations
11. Add a gas station to the new campus to improve community relations
12. No gas stations please!
Campus Character

1. Needs to have some!
2. Repaint as rapidly as possible
3. Relocation of Plaza
4. Link the campus to renewable (solar/wind) energy as a campus character
5. Bus drop-off is ghastly
6. Access to plaza from Connecticut
7. Create openings (like GW) to central campus
8. Use of amphitheatre (limited events)
9. Talking to management of adjacent buildings
10. Preserve Farmers Market!
11. Sensitive to space and context
12. Conservative, yet encouraging
13. More active retail presence, nice upscale restaurants
14. This campus is now a negative in this area. The plaza is terrible and the whole campus is forbidding. Very ugly, needs something welcoming on Connecticut Avenue
15. To do something that is conservative and sensitive at the same time. Have upscale restaurants that are better than present day restaurants, like in the GW areas and be diverse which would have a variety of restaurants.
16. No gas stations please!
17. Pedestrian footbridge across Connecticut Avenue a la Millennium Park, Chicago – Frank Gehry’s flyover (signature gateway to the future bridge!)
18. Building identification on Connecticut
   • Have some signage to notify public of activities and events
19. Work with management of neighboring apartments about inviting residents to performances
20. Dennard Plaza – signage required to notify people about the existence of the Plaza
21. Electronic marquee on Connecticut Avenue a la the new Montgomery College Performing Arts Center on Georgia Avenue
22. Have some signage to notify public of activities and events
1. Limit need to cross street for anything
2. More students
3. Keep Student Center internal to campus
4. Combine student center with Residential Hall
5. As the growth steps are being taken, be sure to address security needs
6. Identify existing facility use in size & type to look for efficiencies in development of existing facilities to optimize their use and return on investments past and present.
   - Run alternative scenarios of use
7. Support the ability to have cultural events to go along with the larger community
   - See George Mason, etc.
8. Impact of temporary student housing on residents of Van Ness South and surrounding residential buildings
9. Food Service options and meal plans to support new student counts
Sustainability

1. Use Masterplan to establish comprehensive and realistic goals to advance campus sustainability
2. LEED Silver is a city minimum – UDC should aim much higher
3. Put solar hot water on roofs
4. On-campus composting to urban gardens to feed café
5. Involve Sustainability Task Force in developing bid specs for all new contracts that relate to building, materials purchasing services
6. Remove toxic tablets from urinals to switch to waterless ones
7. Make procurement staff read Kevin Lyons’ “Buying for the Future” book and have them adopt the policies and process used at Rutgers University set up by Kevin Lyons
8. LEED Silver & Gold will be outdated in a couple of years. UDC needs to build for the future with today’s cutting edge standards or at least Platinum LEED (which itself will be dated upto 10 years probably demoted to silver). So please think more in terms of “Living Building Challenge” design models and overall campus sustainability
9. District heating-cooling co-generation
10. 100% stormwater capture and management
11. Zero use of toxic chemicals for landscape
12. Increase insulation on all existing buildings to maximize envelope
13. Coordinate residential on campus with city car sharing programs
14. No plastic bottled water on campus
15. Reuse gray water in all planting
16. We definitely need more green space on campus. More trees, green roofs and “Visible” recycling tools
17. Solar PV! – street level to power lighting
18. Rooftops to feed building energy demand
19. Do sustainability in all aspects – conform to E013514
20. Please make the campus more attractive and inviting!
   • More landscaping
   • Some attractive community serving
   • Retail on Connecticut
   • Build a theatre that attracts world-class cultural events like at GW and George Mason
Community Participation

1. Work with Howard Law, Burke School, Levine School of Music to organize programs to lessen the impact on parking
2. Keep the farmer’s market
3. Should have cultural events like other colleges & universities e.g. GW, Mason etc.
4. Should upgrade or build theatre for this purpose
5. Support more residential here – question decentralizing and prospects for 4 year school that is successful here
6. Support better connection to Connecticut and development of plaza – incorporate community serving retail
7. Have better signage and directions, have a diagram which suggests directions
8. UDC needs to consult with neighboring institutions eg. Burke, Howard
   • Remember constituents living in surrounding areas besides Van Ness who want to support UDC
   • Need to talk to one another!
9. Performing Arts Center – connect to other cultural institutions i.e. Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, etc.
10. What about security?
11. What about parking?
12. Offer senior adults the ability to audit classes or provide reduced rates for Senior Citizens interested in Continuing Education
13. Permit local neighbors to use sports facilities, pool, gym, for free or limited cost
14. Improve communications with the community
   • There is no community center
   • Need community space e.g. Library, meeting space
   • Include community space in Student Center
   • Need a night life to provide a vibrant community
Thank You

Community Open House # 3
6:00 pm, Wednesday December 8, 2010
Campus Auditorium, Building 46 East