Meeting Minutes

Community – Campus Task Force Meeting
Thursday, January 30, 2014 @ 6:30 PM
VAN NESS CAMPUS, BLDG 44, RM. A-03

Attendees:
David Wilson, David Bardin; Karen Perry, ANC 3F01; MaryAnn Miller, Sally Gresham, Joanna Edwards, Harry Gural, Dee Smith, Carol Woodard, Tom Whitley, Susan Cohen, Dee Foschini, Courtney Dotson, Maria Thompson, Connie Webster, Shauna Brew

Barbara Jumper, Vice President, Facilities, Real Estate & Public Safety; Michael C. Rogers, Vice President University Advancement, Thomas Redmond, Director, State and Local Affairs; Kimberly Pennamon, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs; Larry Volz, Chief, Campus Police; Erik Thompson, Senior Project Manager, Capital Construction, Division of Facilities Management;

6:30pm Student Housing – Kimberly Pennamon

Kimberly Pennamon provided an update on housing occupancy by students at the Archstone and Consulate to include the number of units occupied. She stated that the 31 units are all occupied, inclusive of the units set aside for the Resident advisors.

Discussion and Questions:

Mr. Bardin raised a question about the treatment of student institutional scholarship funds by students being treated as revenue or expenditures. The University’s response through Michael Rogers was that the CFO’s accounts for institutional scholarships as revenue.

Karen Perry asked a question about the cost of the athletic program, Michael Rogers reported that the board had postponed a decision elimination of athletics. He noted that the athletic program is subsidized by the University and pointed out that few collegiate athletic programs support themselves.

Security issues- A tenant association representative from the Archstone raised a concern about a barred individual returning repeatedly to the building in spite of a restraining order. The discussion revolved around whether the barred individual was visiting UDC students or others in the building. Ria Thompson, resident advisor urged others not to jump to conclusions about who may or may not have facilitated his entry into the building.

Chief Volz- UDC Police Chief noted his office can only bar someone if the individual is on UDC property. He stated the University’s police would be happy to work with MPD. Maria Thompson pointed out the steps the University has taken to warn students about this individual. She stated that the resident advisors had posted notices with a photo and warned students not to admit him to their rooms. During orientation of students, that message will be repeated. And notices –photo posted and students briefed as an update to last year’s notice.

Several arch stone residents raised concerns about noise generated by students and noise abatement measures taken to curb it. One suggestion was that the University put carpeting on floors? Ms Thompson indicated that discussions about the feasibility of carpet and or area rugs had occurred. Ms. Pennamon stated that Student Affairs would work with the Office of Facilities to determine if this could be done.
Strategic Plan – Michael Rogers

Mr. Rogers provided a review of strategic plan process. He stated that the Board of Trustees would likely vote in February. The plan he noted looked at every looked at every aspect of the University operations... Recommendations had been made, investments proposed, and the means of financing the investments proposed.

He said that the athletic program elimination was proposed as one of the means of choice to finance investments on campus. He also stated that academic program or course eliminations were based upon criteria and the number of programs proposed for elimination had fluctuated from 23 programs during the hearings – to between 20 – 17 eliminations at the last discussion by the Board.

Two programs he mentioned as examples were the Bachelors in special education, and elementary education.

He also noted the positive effect of athletics and stated that the Board wanted to look at alternatives for financing investments, such as on line education, continuing education and career services. The overarching question is how to make the investments in the needed areas. The University, he stated is no different from other Universities. It is experiencing declining enrollment in some areas and a decreasing subsidy amount from the Government. He expected the Board to wrap up in February.

Discussion and Questions:

Mr. Tom Whitley asked about the level of review by the council of the University’s strategic plan and which committee has oversight over the University’s Budget. The committee of the whole chaired by chairman Mendelson has oversight over the University, replied Mr. Rogers. He also stated that the Council respected the role of the Board of Trustees and there was no affirmative action that the Council had to take on the strategic Plan.

Mr. Whitley - informed meeting of an Exhibit on campus and urged greater effort to communicate activities occurring on campus and stressed value to the community. The marketing needs are urgent and require action. He opined that marketing / training need to be is to be harnessed to promote the University. Mr. Rogers noted his agreement but pointed out the impact of right-sizing and noted he is not sensitive to the criticism.

In response to a question about housing options in the strategic plan, Mr. Rogers stated that language on specific recommendations was removed, but the Board of Trustees is BOT committed to the master plan but that no decision to design/build, or locate housing on campus is imminent..

A question was raised about the status of ownership of the land upon which the University sits. Mr. Bardin pointed out that the land belongs to the Federal government but was transferred to the BOT with the right to use the land for educational purposes.

Mr. Rogers pointed out that the University’s budget represents 1.2% of the District’s budget whereas other states on average provide 7.2% to higher education.

A discussion ensued on the status of various academic programs such as physics program- and its importance to the STEM program. Mr. Rogers stated that courses needed will be taught and that in many instances the foundational courses, minors and concentrations in the courses would be available. The University, he said, is not walking away from STEM program.
Mr. Bardin questioned whether the Nutrition major program and environmental science programs in CAUSES would continue to be offered. A attendee raised the question of how can you have an environmental center without environmental majors?

Mr. Rogers stated that the Strategic Plan would be available on the website in mid-February, after the Board meeting.

Mr. Bardin asked about the most effective means of lobbying for budget increase on behalf of the University. He said it was it was his understanding and he had heard that the University was instructed not to ask for more money.

**Student Center Construction Status - Erik Thompson**

Erik Thompson presented an update on the Student Union Construction and made the following presentation and addressed two e-mails he received regarding Snow removal and the Yuma st. cracked sidewalk. The snow contract was extended to allow removal along the entire length of the soccer field. The cracked sidewalks on Yuma were caused by construction. And he determined that some cars were double-parked on Yuma St. and warning about double parking would be issued, followed by ticketing.

He stated that the University has awarded the remaining 20% of the construction contract. The scheduled actions include installation of steel in the spring, with concrete going in lower level now. He added that a sample wall of materials’ will be reviewed by the Commission on Fine Arts soon.

Mr. Thompson stated that the construction schedule has shifted because of below grade unforeseen conditions in the ground in close proximity to the metro station. Other milestones include approval of a mockup and a ribbon-cutting in the spring of 2015. He stated that the construction would be completed by the end of the calendar year. The same contractor is doing below and over grade work. He indicated that the plan to put student art on fences is still contemplated.

**Discussion and Questions:**

Questions about Capital funding-and the facilities operational cost was raised. - Mr. Bardin described the budgeting process as an accordion going back and forth. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Thompson noted that the operational costs to run the University will increase upon completion of the student center and those other options to manage facilities costs are under continuous review. These include moving the community college back to the main campus, reducing the number of facilities off-campus or seeking assistance from the District government.

Other suggestions include mixed use Development o utilizing Building 52 as a residence hall and using excess space on campus for the law school. Mr. Thompson pointed out that there was no excess usable space to meet the law school needs on campus.

8:10pm ADJOURNMENT