

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Approved at the meeting of the Board on November 9, 2017

MINUTES

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Wednesday, October 11, 2017
Gerberding Hall, Room 142**

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Regent Jaech called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary of the Board recorded the roll.

Regents present: Regents Jaech (chairing), Benoliel, Goddard, Rice, Riojas, Tamaki.

Regents absent: Regents Ayer, Blake, Harrell, Simon.

Others present at the table: President Cauce, Provost Baldasty, Treasurer Scott, Faculty Senate Chair Professor Way.

CONFIRM AGENDA

Regent Jaech confirmed the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The opportunity for public comment was provided to those who signed up at the meeting before the start of the meeting. Staff members Paula Lukaszek, Tom Small, and Steve Lee offered their perspectives on the Campus Master Plan, conveying to the Board the difficulty of low-wage staff members in finding affordable housing and affordable transportation to the University. Community member Bereket Kiros drew attention to the difficulties of ethnic minorities.

BOARD ITEM

UW Seattle Campus Vision and Master Plan Process Review (Agenda No. B-1) (Information only)

Jeffrey Scott, Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration explained that the Campus Master plan transformed the UW's educational mission and values into physical space. He added that there was no expiration date on the plan, once approved, until the square footage planned in it had been built out. Approval by the City Council will be a quasi-judicial process to take place later this winter.

Mike McCormick, Associate Vice President, Capital Planning and Development, recognized the efforts of Rebecca Barnes, the University Architect, who then offered the Regents and members of the public a thirty-minute overview of the Master Plan.

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See Attachment B-1.

Following Ms. Barnes's presentation, Sally Clark, Director of Regional and Community Relations, introduced a panel of community members. She first introduced Matt Fox and John Gaines, representatives of the City-University Community Advisory Council (CUCAC), which had a formal role in the review process, and of the University District Community Council (UDCC) and Portage Bay Community Council, respectively. She then introduced Karen Hart and David Parsons from the U District Alliance for Equity and Livability, a group representing some members of the community. Regent Jaech thanked the panelists for coming to offer their perspectives.

Mr. Fox began by stating that CUCAC is generally supportive of the Master Plan's provisions, especially the proposed West Campus Green. He focused on the fact that almost all expansion was concentrated in the West Campus zone and that proposed building heights were inconsistent with the existing built environment. He recommended spreading expansion more evenly and moderating building heights to preserve views and light. He also noted that the Innovation District along Roosevelt could spur gentrification analogous to that observed in the South Lake Union area.

Mr. Gaines concurred, asking the Regents and the University to act on CUCAC's detailed, thoughtful recommendations concerning the Master Plan, which were the result of a massive effort of distillation from community feedback.

Ms. Hart began by noting the symbiotic relationship between a thriving UW and a thriving community. She explained that the U District Alliance for Equity and Livability makes three recommendations:

- i. that the Campus Master Plan be compatible with the Seattle 2030 Plan in mitigating potential consequences of proposed developments;
- ii. that the UW use its properties to benefit all, keeping surrounding neighborhoods livable and offering free transit passes to staff members; and
- iii. that the UW assist employees in finding affordable housing.

Mr. Parsons represents graduate and undergraduate instructional employees (teaching assistants, primarily). He observed that many of those he represented were rent-burdened (rents greater than 30 percent of income) or severely rent-burdened (rents greater than 50 percent of income). Affordable housing is therefore a prime issue for them.

Ms. Clark thanked the panelists for expressing their views.

Regent Jaech then opened discussion between the Regents, staff members, and the panelists.

Discussion touched on building heights, on childcare needs, on whether the Master Plan should include issues beyond planning for future physical space needs, on the precise nature of the Innovation District, on reducing single-occupancy vehicle travel to and from campus, and on affordable housing.

Concerning childcare, it was noted that large public employers elsewhere, including hospitals in New York City, had joined together to offer childcare vouchers to employees and that this possibility might be discussed with the City of Seattle following the mayoral election.

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With respect to the scope of the Master Plan, some community members expressed wishes that it cover possible impacts of ongoing development, by the University and by others, in the area, particularly around transit nodes such as light rail stations.

Ms. Barnes and Ms. Clark observed that participants in the Innovation District had to have a logical connection, a “nexus,” to the University’s educational mission.

Ms. Clark also noted that the University was choosing to provide affordable housing on some of its properties, including low-income housing and housing for homeless young adults. The University, she observed, is trying to provide affordable housing while balancing this goal against its financial constraints.

Ms. Barnes remarked that affordable housing was discussed more in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) accompanying the Master Plan than in the Plan itself.

Regent Jaech concluded the discussion by thanking all participants for joining the Regents.

ADJOURN

The Board will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday, October 12, in the Petersen Room of the Allen Library. Committee meetings begin at 8:30 a.m.

Regent Jaech adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.



Tyler Lange
Secretary of the Board of Regents

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