



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

January 16, 2007

Ms. Jean Woods, Chair
Allston-Brighton Boston College
Community Task Force
77 Nonantum Street
Brighton, MA 02135

Dear Chair Woods:

On behalf of Boston College, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Allston- Brighton Boston College Community Task Force for its letter of August 2004 outlining the challenges facing the Allston-Brighton community and the essential issues that the group would like Boston College to consider as it prepares a new institutional master plan. Boston College appreciates the time and effort necessary to draft such a comprehensive and thoughtful letter and has utilized it as an important resource in guiding the University and our master plan consultants engaged in this process.

As the Task Force is aware, Boston College completed an Institutional Strategic PD0b1ce38iss f05 Tc0.0009Tw and t1

staff, and students contribute to the economic vitality of the neighborhoods in a variety of tangible ways: generating tax revenue, purchasing goods and services, and attracting research funding that creates jobs and spawns future industries, businesses and entrepreneurial activities.

The issue of housing affordability is one that the

and request for site maps showing existing conditions and significant features of the property were provided in the Master Plan Amendment for the Brighton Campus and the Sasaki long-range campus master plan presentations.

Recommendations Concerning Specific Issues Relating to the Next Master Plan

1. Boston College is preparing an Institutional Master Plan for land it currently owns in Boston. If approached, however, the University will consider opportunities for other strategic acquisitions. For example, the Wade Street properties were purchased to provide housing options for faculty and administrators to live in Brighton in close proximity to the University. These four houses will not be converted to institutional use, but remain residential, and the University will continue to pay taxes to the City of Boston.
2. With the exception of modest increases in graduate and professional enrollment, Boston College is not planning an increase in enrollment during the next master plan period. Over the past decade, Boston College's enrollment has remained stable.
3. As stated earlier in this letter, Boston College and Sasaki are studying the needs of the University as it relates to increasing the number of undergraduate student beds. An increase in the undergraduate beds is being considered. Boston College has stated that it is unlikely that it would ever accommodate 100% of its students on campus due to students who opt to commute, live in the neighborhood, or participate in study abroad programs. Boston College and Sasaki recognize the potential for providing additional housing density on the current site of the mods and this area has been identified in the long-range plan for the construction of residence halls.
4. Brighton Campus:

- e. As stated previously, Boston College and Sasaki are in the process of examining the demand and need for additional undergraduate housing beds in the ten year time frame and identifying all possible locations for the construction of new residence halls.

Recommendations Concerning Community Benefits

As Boston College and VHB begin to prepare the IMP, we look forward to a productive discussion with the Task Force and the community around the community benefits package. Boston College is very proud of the outreach and support that the University currently provides to the Allston-Brighton community through the existing Allston-Brighton scholarship program, institutional financial aid to Boston students attending Boston College, community service programs, grants to community based organizations through the community fund and our recent partnership with St. Columbkille School and the Archdiocese of Boston, just to name a few. We look forward to a productive dialogue on these issues and working with the Task Force to develop an appropriate community benefits package that will match the needs of the community with the resources of Boston College over the next ten years.

Conclusion

Boston College appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Task Force letter and looks forward to continuing a productive and open dialogue with the Task Force as we build on the long-range vision plan developed by Sasaki and work with VHB to craft a ten-year Institutional Master Plan that meets the needs of the both the community and Boston College.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Keady, Jr.