

1. DISCUSSION ON HOUSING WITH VICE PROVOST BARB KNUTH

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Barb Knuth: "Thank you. I'm here to ask for your input and insights with regard to a task that Provost Kotlikoff ask that I undertake, and that is to lead an external review of the west campus house system. The west campus house system has existed about ten years, so seems to be a good time to think about the impact it is having on our campus, on the student community, on the faculty who participate.

"The document that you had in advance talked about the general charge, draft charge. The process that I've kind of designed for undertaking this, that will include currently information-gathering, talking with faculty and students who are in the program, more as individuals, not as groups or focus groups, anything like that, but doing a lot of document review.

"I intend, over the summer, to invite a small internal committee to help flesh this out. And then with the idea, then an external review team, invited from other schools who have comparable context or have residential learning communities that are strong can come visit the campus in the fall, probably mid to late fall, so that students who are living on west campus at the time have already had some experiences there.

"And then conduct a review and issue a report that would then be used by both the provost's office and student and campus life, who both collaborate in delivering the west campus house system programs.

"So I'm seeking your input on the charge, the general charge that you had, which focuses, again, both on the undergraduate educational experience, as well as the experience of faculty, and any insights you have about the focus of the external review team.

"I have posed a number of draft review questions that might be asked of the review team to address, and I'm looking for your comments. Is this generally on track? Do you have any suggests about how this can best be focused to be meaningful, to produce meaningful information that can be acted upon in an effective way to direct or influence the future of the west campus house system? So I'll leave it at that and take questions."

Speaker Lewenstein: "We have about five minutes. Professor Schaffer."

Professor Chris Schaffer, Biomedical Engineering Department: "So I guess one thing I think could be valuable here, we have two systems, the north campus system, the west

campus system, both of which have the goals of, at least part of their goals of increasing student faculty interactions, but their models are quite different.

“And I'm not saying that you need to expand this to a comprehensive review of north and west campus, but there might be select questions about places where the structure or things like that are notably different between north and west campus, where comparative analysis could be good to identify best practices that could then be used in both things, both places.

“Just given the fact that you're undertaking all of this work now, it seems like at least identifying a few places where also looking at what we are doing on north campus and assessing it, it would just be valuable information. It would be a shame to waste this chance, while you're doing the west campus anyway.”

Vice Provost Knuth: “Thank you.”

Professor N'dri Assie-Lumumba, Africana Studies: “Actually, we were all faculty in residence during that time, and I served as faculty in residence on west campus. My first year was the last year first-year undergraduates were allowed to live on west campus. So connecting this to the previous speaker, they are connected; the idea that all first-year students should have the north campus experience before exploring the west campus, so they are interconnected.

“And there was a lot of debate surrounding the whole project. So I'm wondering if in the end there was integrated, in the implementation, the plan for a review at specific point, or it's just ten year, let's do a review?”

Vice Provost Knuth: “That's a good question. Thank you. To my knowledge, there was not a point in time that was identified for review. I think Provost Kotlikoff saw this as an opportunity. The other opportunity that exists, which you'll hear from in just a moment, is that Ryan Lombardi is leading an all-campus master housing plan review.

“And so the question -- for example, it is a big question: Should all first-year students be required to live on north campus or be required to live somewhere on campus. That may be a question that's more relevant to that overall master plan process than necessarily the west campus review.

“Certainly both these efforts will inform one another. His is a bit farther along than this one is and, certainly, the information that's coming out of that master housing plan data-gathering effort will be informative for this, but you're right. As it's designed, it is

more confined to asking questions specifically about west campus house system improvement, understanding that there is the desire to see where the synergies are with north campus and what we can learn from north as well.”

Speaker Lewenstein: “Time for one short question. Professor Lieberwitz.”

Professor Lieberwitz, ILR: “Just a short question. This will apply for the next discussion as well, but if you are going to create an internal review committee, this would be an opportunity -- and you may have already thought of this, but this would be an opportunity to make sure that the processes of faculty governance are put into place; for example, having the Nominations and Elections Committee from the senate work with you to identify faculty to put on the internal committee.”

Vice Provost Knuth: “Thank you, yeah. It was actually kind of complicated when I first asked for the ability to meet with somebody from the faculty senate. I think there was some deliberation and question about is there even a body in the faculty senate who would have jurisdiction here, so I appreciate that suggestion. That's a nice way to integrate.”

Professor Lieberwitz: “And there might be some standing committee to bring in, but Nominations and Elections Committee could help you. And I think that's also, from way back when we did our faculty governance report, we emphasized that when there are joint committees, that Nominations and Elections Committee should be involved in helping to identify the faculty for that group.”

Vice Provost Knuth: “Thank you for that suggestion.”

Speaker Lewenstein: “Thank you very much. Now we'll move to a report on the housing master plan, Vice President Ryan Lombardi.”