



University Space Priorities Working Group

January 7, 2013

John Sexton
President
New York University
70 Washington Square South, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10012

Dear President Sexton:

The University Space Priorities Working Group sincerely appreciates the information provided by members of the administration to date. In order to respond to specific questions raised by ourselves and our constituents, and to seek clarification on some of the finer points of the NYU Core Plan, we respectfully ask appropriate members of the University community to respond to the following items:

Internal vetting of space needs expressed by departments and schools

- What is the internal process for vetting space needs, beginning at the school level?
- What principles or standards guide this process?
- What are the criteria under which a particular project is approved for allocation by the Space Planning Working Group, and a capital commitment made?
- In addition to members of the administration, who else is involved in vetting and approving decisions about space?

Classroom space and utilization

- What are the specific effects (both measurable and non-measurable) of increasing the classroom utilization rate during periods with unused capacity (e.g. Fridays, weekends, and early morning hours)?
- What further measures have been considered to improve the classroom utilization rate, and what effect would they have on the need for additional classrooms (e.g. reduction in classroom contact hours, increase in on-line instruction) ?

Additional information on financial planning

- How does NYU budget for emergencies such as Hurricane Sandy?
- What contingency planning has been undertaken to assess the financial risks of the Core Plan?
- If the southern block were built to maximum density, what are the additional annual maintenance costs?

Faculty housing

- Given current occupancy and vacancy rates, is the existing stock of faculty housing sufficient to meet projected future needs?
- What assumptions are made regarding projected needs in terms of net growth in faculty, or changes in demand for faculty housing?

- If NYU faces a shortage of certain types of faculty housing (two- or three-bedroom units, for example), are there ways to address this issue without new construction?
- If new faculty housing is needed, can you provide a rationale for the number and type of units, as well as general principles for design and construction?
- Other than new construction on the Zipper site, what other steps might NYU take to increase the availability of faculty housing?

Coles Sports and Recreation Center

- What plans exist to improve the quality and use of space at the current Coles Center?
- What contingency plans have been made to address the University's athletic and recreational needs in the event of construction on the Coles site?
- If incorporated into the construction plans for Zipper building, how would a 'new' Coles differ from the existing Coles?

Non-classroom space for student use

- What is the current inventory of non-classroom student space at NYU and how does it compare with demand?
- What are the specific needs for non-classroom student space (including study space, student life/programming space, and club life space) that have been expressed by students and their representatives?
- How has non-classroom student space been incorporated into the Core Plan?

Thank you in advance for properly directing these requests. The Working Group looks forward to reviewing the responses to these questions and any supporting documentation in advance of its next meeting on January 22, 2013.

Sincerely,

Ted Magder
Chair, University Space Priorities Working
Group

CC: Richard Baum