



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

March 20, 2013

To the University Community,

I write on behalf of the University Space Priorities Working Group with a brief update on our work, and an invitation to attend one of our upcoming town hall meetings.

Town Halls

The Working Group has scheduled three town hall meetings open to anyone in the university community. Our objective is to use the town halls to inform the work of the subcommittees and to generate productive conversations on space needs, financing, and quality of life issues. Each town hall will focus on the work of one of the subcommittees, though we will also welcome questions and comments of a general nature, as well as questions that might be more suited to one of the other town halls.

Space Subcommittee:

Wednesday, March 27

12:00 - 2:00 PM

Kimmel Center, Rosenthal Pavilion (10th Floor)

Finance Subcommittee:

Thursday, March 28

12:00 - 2:00 PM

Kimmel Center, Rm. 914 (9th Floor)

Quality of Life Subcommittee:

Wednesday, April 10

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Kimmel Center, Rm. 914 (9th Floor)

Update on Activity

Our report to the President is due at the end of the spring semester. It will be released to the University community at the same time.

In an effort to focus our analysis and begin the task of crafting recommendations, we have created three subcommittees: the space subcommittee is reviewing all current and projected space needs, the finance subcommittee is assessing fiscal scenarios for the construction or acquisition of new

space, and the quality of life subcommittee is exploring measures to reduce the neighborhood disruptions that normally accompany large-scale construction.

Working Group members are also in the midst of a round of meetings with faculty representing departments that last spring passed resolutions expressing concern or opposition to NYU 2031. We are also engaging with school deans to better understand the process of space planning within each school, as well as the University-wide process for establishing space priorities.

The working group continues to review and respond to questions or comments submitted through the Space Priorities [website](#) and other means. Many of these questions have required us to gather new and detailed information from the University (now available on our website), and to consult broadly with the University community. Our deliberations continue. Of course, we invite any member of the University to send us a comment via the [website](#) or by email to any [member](#) of the Working Group.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Working Group's Web site.

The Southern and Northern Blocks

The approval from New York City defines a "zoning envelope;" in other words, an outer limit of permissible development. Our task is to advise the University on exactly how to make use of the southern and northern superblocks. The plan permits NYU to build on land that it already owns, but does not require it to do so. The Working Group is also considering whether space needs might also be met by purchasing or leasing new real estate elsewhere, instead of, or in combination with, construction on the superblocks.

The plan submitted by the university and approved by the City allows no construction on the northern block until 2022. The Working Group is therefore concentrating on the question of whether, and if so what, construction should take place on the southern block. Before any new construction on university-owned property at all takes place on the northern block to implement the plan, the USPWG recommends that the university enable a level of thorough discussion, analysis, and faculty consultation similar to that undertaken by the Working Group.

Respectfully,

Ted Magder, Chair, University Space Priorities Working Group