



BULK OF UNIVERSITY'S 10-YEAR MASTER PLAN WINS NOD FROM BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CHESTNUT HILL, MA -- The Boston Redevelopment Authority voted unanimously to approve the University's Institutional Master Plan (IMP), with the exception of one project, at its public hearing at Boston City Hall on Jan. 29.

After hearing testimony from local residents, students and elected officials, the BRA gave its approval for a plan comprising a university center, recreation complex, fine arts district and playing fields for baseball, softball and intramurals, as well as a 470-bed residence hall on the present site of More Hall and three interconnected dormitories holding 560 beds on Shea Field.

The board also gave approval for the conversion of the apartment complex at 2000 Commonwealth Avenue to university-controlled housing, which will provide 560 beds for BC undergraduates. In addition to these projects within the City of Boston, the University plans to construct four new academic buildings on the Middle Campus in Newton as part of its IMP.

The BRA, however, voted to further consider the proposed 150-bed residence hall at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and the spine road on the Brighton Campus. The University has said that the 150-bed residence hall — and a 350-bed dormitory that was not included in this IMP filing — are needed to achieve its goal of meeting 100 percent of undergraduate demand for housing.

BRA Director John Palmieri suggested that the 150-bed residence be given additional study before a decision is reached by the Authority.

The proposed beds on the Brighton Campus have divided Brighton residents, with many voicing strong support for the residence hall as the only means of removing students from rental apartments; others, particularly residents of Lake Street including Secretary of State William Galvin, have complained that beds would infringe upon their quality of life.

The BRA vote followed a decision to support the plan from the Allston- Brighton Boston College Community Task Force, a 13-member advisory board of local residents appointed by Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino to review institutional development proposals.

The IMP will now be reviewed at a public hearing before the Boston Zoning Commission on March 18. Once approved by the Commission, the IMP and associated zoning map changes will be sent to the Mayor for his signature.

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