



Katelyn Sullivan <katelyn.sullivan@boston.gov>

No! to Fisher College Institutional Master Plan

Ross Wood <ross.wood@verizon.net>

Fri, Jul 17, 2015 at 3:00 PM

Reply-To: Ross Wood <ross.wood@verizon.net>

To: "Katelyn.Sullivan@Boston.gov" <Katelyn.Sullivan@boston.gov>

Katelyn Sullivan, Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

I strongly oppose Fisher College's Institutional Master Plan (IMP) submitted to the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) on May 13, 2015.

I have read the response to Fisher's IMP by the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB), and I heartily agree with all of NABB's positions.

The BRA should reject Fisher's IMP and not consider any submission until it corrects all of its violations of existing codes and regulations.

Thank you,

Ross Wood
319 Marlborough Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Katelyn Sullivan
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

Subj: Fisher College Institutional Master Plan

Not long ago, Barney Frank and I stood side by side serving pancakes at the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay Annual Breakfast. This event was hosted by Fisher College and attended by NABB members, neighbors at large, City officials, business leaders, some church representatives, and students from schools and colleges. Together, students and neighborhood volunteers set up, served, and cleaned up. Conversation at tables centered on Back Bay matters, Civic events, and the numerous contributions that Boston and its institutions have provided to the whole world. It is my view, that this style event is good old fashion wholesome neighborhood cooperation and mutual respect.

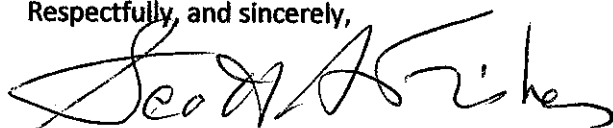
At Dudley Station, downtown Franklin Street, Huntington Avenue, the Back Bay (over 75 years), and several other locations Fisher College has been providing education to the young and adult Boston students. Its programs are rigorous; students work for their degrees, and return to Boston as city employees and dwellers. Most companies, charities, and public offices have benefited from their presence and contributions. Fisher is "a Boston College" primarily serving Boston people, by providing collegiate education at home, and providing, to them, significant underwriting of the cost of same.

Change in the Fisher College profile has been modest over this 100 year period. Its properties, mostly real estate derelicts, or previously under-maintained have all been renovated to modern use meeting all city codes, architectural review, and always with neighborhood enhancement and compatibility. To be sure, this is to the College's advantage; but, as well, it is complimentary to the long-term interests of all neighbors.

The Institutional Master Plan mostly describes the history, style, performance, and current status of Fisher College. In so doing, the IMP provides unequivocal evidence of a commitment to the City, the neighborhood, and to the city's educational needs. Fisher's responsible history will leave no doubt in a reader's mind as to the pattern and intent of the College's future.

I support the College IMP, of course, but further, I think Fisher College has earned the continued support of the City of Boston.

Respectfully, and sincerely,



Dr. Scott A. Fisher

Past President, Fisher College



Assessing Department

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

To: Katelyn Sullivan, Project Manager, Boston Redevelopment Authority
From: Matthew Englander, Director of Tax Policy
Date: July 15, 2015
Re: Fisher College Institutional Master Plan

Starting in Fiscal Year 2012, Fisher College (“Fisher”) was asked to make a voluntary contribution to the City of Boston’s PILOT Program. PILOT contributions, which are based on the total amount of tax-exempt property owned by an institution, are ramped up over a 5-year period that began in FY 2012 to allow institutions such as Fisher, which had never previously contributed to the PILOT Program, sufficient time to budget for the annual contribution. The PILOT request that was made to Fisher and other nonprofit institutions in Boston was for an annual cash contribution that could be reduced by up to 50% by providing certain qualifying community benefits exclusively to Boston residents. To date, Fisher has not made a cash contribution to the PILOT Program, though the College has provided proof of qualifying community benefits.

Fisher’s recently submitted Institutional Master Plan includes plans to expand their presence in Boston’s Back Bay. My concern is that as their campus grows, the College’s need for basic City services – police and fire protection as well as snow removal – will increase. Given that nearly all of Fisher’s property is tax-exempt, Boston’s taxpayers will be asked to cover the cost of these increased City services. PILOT contributions help to reduce this taxpayer burden, so it is critical that Fisher make a commitment to participating in the PILOT Program.

Next Steps

I met with representatives from Fisher in July 2015 to emphasize the importance of participation in the PILOT Program. This commitment includes an annual cash contribution to the City as well as qualifying community services to the unique benefit of Boston residents. I will continue to work with Fisher toward a sustainable commitment to the PILOT Program.

Lisa Dunfey
166 Beacon Street, #6
Boston, MA. 02116

BRA

2015 JUL 15 P 2:04

July 6, 2015

Boston Redevelopment Authority
1 City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201

I, Lisa Dunfey, am adamantly against the expansion of Fisher college in Back Bay for the following reasons:

Road Safety. The students jay walk in front of traffic all of the time forcing cars to slam on their brakes. The students tend to spill out onto Beacon Street ignoring oncoming traffic for they do not have an outdoor space to meet with other fellow students during their breaks other than the front door stairs. My wife and I fear that it is a matter of time before the students are involved in fatal pedestrian accidents. There are more than enough pedestrian accidents on Beacon Street. Why have more?

Traffic Congestion. When school is in session, traffic on Beacon Street from Arlington to Berkley backs up on to Storrow Drive. During semester breaks, traffic flows normally. Food and beverage delivery trucks, moving trucks etc., have no where to unload other to double park on busy Beacon Street. Likewise, the students appear not have any dedicated parking lots forcing them to park on Beacon Street taking away critical parking for residents. There are excessive number of cars double parking to drop off students or to socialize with other students.

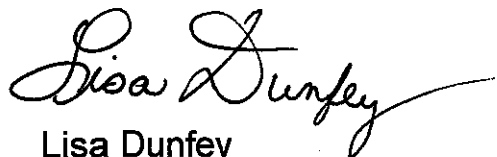
Loss of Residential Inventory. Fisher College occupies former historical homes that could be converted to condo housing to compensate for the shortage of housing for business executives. More residential inventory in beautiful Back Bay could help the city's goal to attract more companies to come to Boston.

Loss of tax revenue and compensation for neighborhood inconvenience. Fisher College makes no payments in lieu of taxes reducing the tax inventory, forcing Back Bay residents to unfairly pay for their expenses and inconveniences.

Clearly, Fisher College needs more space to offer its students a badly needed campus. Back Bay, a residential area, does not have that space. Like other colleges, Fisher college would be far better off to move to a surrounding area. Back Bay does not have room for their current expansion needs and definitely would not have incremental room for any future expansion. Fisher College could sell their buildings in the expensive Back Bay area to fund the costs to construct buildings more appropriate for education and most important provide a campus complete with parking for the safety and convenience

of their students.

For these reasons I agree with our fellow neighbors that the proposed expansion for Fisher college would be detrimental to the Back Bay and detrimental for Boston. I object strongly to any measure that would allow Fisher college to expand in Back Bay and would seriously question the creditability of any elected official that would support the proposed Fisher College expansion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa Dunfey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Lisa Dunfey



Katelyn Sullivan <katelyn.sullivan@boston.gov>

Letter of Support for Fisher College Institutional Master Plan

1 message

Danna M. Zeiger <dzeiger@fisher.edu>

Wed, Jul 15, 2015 at 9:38 AM

To: "katelyn.sullivan@boston.gov" <katelyn.sullivan@boston.gov>

To whom it may concern:

As an Assistant Professor at Fisher College, I am writing to express my strongest support for the Fisher College Institutional Master Plan under consideration. My curriculum development in the sciences, the classes I have taught, and the personal and close-knit interactions with students at Fisher have continued to be an inspiration and a testament to the American Dream - with hard work, even those from disadvantaged backgrounds can prevail. As a prior employee and student at several ivy-league and high-caliber institutions, I can say with confidence that as an institution, Fisher College provides specific necessary resources and benefits for students who might otherwise continue struggling.

Fisher College is a 112 year-old institution, as per Fisher's mission, focuses on providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a lifetime of intellectual and professional pursuits. Fisher comprises a population of diverse students considered high-risk for a number of reasons: socioeconomic background, working multiple jobs throughout their college education, first-generation College students in a family. Fisher College faculty and staff altruistically work hard to provide essential resources, hone life skills, and drive knowledge and career ambition for many students in serious need.

Specifically, Fisher faculty and staff utilize mentorship programs, increased office hours, meticulous tracking of attendance and academic performance, continuous personal guidance, and general monitoring of each student for the best chances of success. We are developing programs and alliances with high-caliber research institutions, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to offer exposure, networking opportunities, and broaden scientific horizons that often eludes at-risk students, such as those at Fisher. On a personal note, I have already been privileged to witness individual stories of achievement. For example, students who were previously working at multiple menial jobs to fund their college education, have acquired field-specific jobs provided by Fisher College, that will build their resume and strengthen career-specific skills. I have observed students attend a Fisher-sponsored science seminar, which has expanded their understanding of the scientific world, and led to excitement for a new major and trajectory. I have enjoyed Fisher senior projects, which have exemplified 4 years of dedicated acquisition of knowledge and skills, and has prepared these students for work in the world. Ultimately, our students all have one goal in common: to attain a better life for themselves through knowledge and education, and therefore, a better life for their loved ones. We at Fisher help our students achieve this goal with pride.

As such, the Institutional Master Plan serves to not only support Fisher's resources, but will increase opportunities for both students and the general public to advance their personal and academic goals. With that, I give my strongest support for the Fisher College Institutional Master Plan.

Danna Zeiger, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
dzeiger@fisher.edu

Fisher College
108 Beacon Street
Room 844
Boston, MA 02116



Katelyn Sullivan <katelyn.sullivan@boston.gov>

Letter of Support for the Fisher College Institutional Master Plan

1 message

Adam S. Zeiger, Ph. D. <Adam.Zeiger@wolfgreenfield.com>
To: "katelyn.sullivan@boston.gov" <katelyn.sullivan@boston.gov>

Wed, Jul 15, 2015 at 9:33 AM

To: Katelyn Sullivan

Boston Redevelopment Authority

One City Hall Square

9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201

Dear Ms. Sullivan and to whom else it may concern:

I am writing to you to express my very strong support for Fisher College's Institutional Master Plan, currently under consideration.

During the last year, I have had the immense pleasure of visiting Fisher College as a guest lecturer, interacting with the faculty, and discussing with the students the broad field of biotechnology as well as intellectual property considerations regarding new technologies. The students come from varied economic backgrounds, but all have a true passion for developing and expanding their knowledge and experiences in new and academically-founded ways. In a short time, I have already seen that the students at Fisher College are immersed in a unique and strong academic environment both at the College itself, as well as through the abundance of resources available in the nearby Back Bay.

It is clear to that the value Fisher College offers to the community as a whole is not only by providing a center of motivated learning, but as a source of resources and opportunities for the population of Boston as a whole. The opportunities afforded to the students and local community through public speakers and events, as well as the benefits Fisher College's buildings and landscape offers to the nearby neighborhood, are only some of the many reasons to support the College's plan to improve its infrastructure.

It is with this in mind, that I wish to give my strongest support for Fisher College's plan to improve their infrastructure so they may continue to be a strong and valuable member of the Boston community for years to come.

Kindest regards,

Adam S. Zeiger, Ph.D.