Inventory of Public Comments on the DRAFT 2009 Master Plan Update

Campus Architecture Style

- (Page 19 and elsewhere) We feel that the plan should consistently reference "Spanish Pueblo Revival" style as the more historically accurate name for the campus architectural style rather than "Pueblo Revival" style. The basic elements of the campus style -- adobe stuccoes, flat roofed cubic forms -- are found in both Pueblo and the Spanish colonial villages of New Mexico. The revival style components that can be attributed specifically to one of the cultures are drawn equally from these two traditions. The Pueblos provide the sort of terraced stepping masses seen in University House, while Spanish architecture provided carved wooden porch brackets, and mission forms such as the two tower facade of Scholes Hall, and the church-like reading rooms of Zimmerman library. The 1960 Warnecke campus master plan includes a letter from long time university architect John Gaw Meem indicating why he was careful to describe campus architecture as being in the Spanish-Pueblo styles (statement appended below). The historical scholarship on New Mexico architecture notes a tendency to call this the Pueblo style despite the style's clear dual origins-- the omission reflecting a broader pattern of romantic Anglo-American veneration of Pueblo Indians and relatively less interest in (and even unself-conscious racism toward) the Spanish-Mexican culture of the state. In light of this history, the term Spanish Pueblo Revival style should be used throughout the Master Plan. – UNM Historic Preservation Committee/ Richard Chapman, Chair; 9/8/2009

- Over the last several decades, UNM has shifted from a focus on open green space to an urban "hardscape" that results in less green space and is designed to accommodate vehicular traffic. There is too much concrete – we want more greenscape. Make the campus more accessible to light weight, non-fossil-fuel-based vehicles that can traverse green space easily. We support edible landscape such as a campus garden. Past student-led efforts such as GROW (Gardens Raise Our World) experienced multiple barriers in achieving aim of edible landscapes that provide affordable and sustainable food sources to students. UNM’s Master Plan should envision and encourage such spaces. We support the continued incorporation of UNM’s historic Southwest revival architecture. George Pearle Hall and the Domenici Center for Health Education break from the John Gaw Meem’s vision of creating buildings that reflect the surrounding community and culture exemplified by Zimmerman Library, the chapel, and Mesa Vista Hall. Densification: We are all for increasing density. We recognize that campus densification is key to a more sustainable university, the preservation and reclamation of green space, and a more vibrant campus culture. But, wherever increasing buildings to 5 stories is seen as necessary for densification, we want to ensure that the Southwest vernacular architecture is respected and that set backs are used (i.e. the façade is set back from lower levels – like the Taos Pueblo). – GPSA, Andrew Marcum, UNM Students; 9/11/2009