Student Housing

- The proposed location for student housing west of the Pit may have some drawbacks you have not considered. A) Bordered by a hill, I-25 and Cesar Chavez, it will be extremely noisy, the air quality will be poor and walk ability will be minimal. B) Access will be less than optimal; the 16/18 bus has no stops between I-25 and University Blvd. and no evening service. c) The proposed area is void of basic amenities -- not even a convenience store in a safe, walk able distance. A location closer to Yale Blvd. would better serve students. -- T’Brin E. Back/ Mardon Gardella, Neighborhood Resident; 9/3/2009

- Housing: Affordable, available, conveniently located housing for students, staff, and faculty will promote less SOV use, improve university-community relations, and promote or more lively and sustainable campus culture. On Campus and Off Campus Housing: On Campus - Affordable, safe, clean, wireless Internet, healthy food, community oriented, child friendly (non-dorm style – each unit includes its own kitchen and bathroom, etc.). Right now on-campus housing is expensive and low quality. Off Campus: University housing needs cannot be met with on-campus housing alone. UNM must work to promote quality affordable off-campus housing as well. Rents are going up immediately off campus and some housing is not up to code and is poorly maintained by out-of-state landlords. Consequently, increasing numbers of students are moving further from campus and accepting longer commutes for lower rents; this exacerbates traffic and parking issues, undermines UNM’s stated goal of a “live, work, learn, play” campus and is environmentally unsustainable. We propose that UNM Work with the City, neighborhoods, and landlords/property managers to develop an “approved housing” program that can be incorporated into the overall Master Plan strategy for addressing student housing needs. The idea is that the university, working with the City of Albuquerque and property managers, could provide parents with a list of approved, quality housing in the neighborhoods, thus making the university a partner in the provision of safe, near-campus housing. Housing West of Pit: None of us would want to live next to the Pit or the Freeway. Would be great for a park and ride/parking structure or commercial uses. Not family friendly. We suggest that student housing west of the Pit be reconsidered and that the Master Plan provide a greater level of detail of proposals for developing on-campus housing on Central Campus. -- GPSA, Andrew Marcum, UNM Students; 9/11/2009

- Student Housing: We fully concur with and support the university’s desire to develop on-campus student housing. However, we do not feel that the issue of student housing – both on- and off-campus – has been adequately fleshed out in this Master Plan update. 1) The plan does not provide enough information about the location, and quantity by location, of new on-campus housing that is proposed. 2) One of the “Proposed Facilities Improvements” in South Campus includes, “developing upperclassmen and graduate [sic] student housing in the area between the Pit and I-25” (MP 46). We question whether this is really the most appropriate location for student housing given the amount of noise from the interstate and the Pit that residents would have to deal with. We feel that a more appropriate and beneficial use for that area would be structure parking with improved shuttle service to Central Campus. 3) During the facilitated meetings between UNM, the City, and the Spruce Park and Sycamore neighborhoods, the idea of ‘approved off-campus housing” was discussed. The idea is that the university, working with the City of Albuquerque and landlords/ property managers, could provide parents with a list of
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Student Housing (cont’d.)
approved, quality housing in the neighborhoods, thus making the university a partner in the
provision of safe, near-campus housing. This would ultimately further the common goal of the
university and the community to provide convenient, quality housing supply for UNM students.
RECOMMENDATIONS: Reconsider building housing between I-25 and the Pit. Provide a greater
level of detail of proposals for developing on-campus housing on Central Campus. Work with the
City, neighborhoods, and landlords/property managers to develop an “approved housing”
program that can be incorporated into the overall Master Plan strategy for addressing student
housing needs. – Isaac Benton, et al, City Councilor; 9/11/2009