

## Meeting Minutes

### Mount Vernon Campus Community Forum

**Date:** June 26, 2005, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

**Attendees:**

- Kevin Days (Executive Director, Office of Community Relations)
- Betsy Shimberg (Assistant Dean, Mount Vernon Campus)
- Jack Hatcher (Presidential Fellow, Office of the President and Government & Community Relations)
- Sherry (Community member)

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- Kevin Days welcomed Sherry and noted she was the only community attendee.
- Introductions were made by:
  - **Betsy Shimberg** – Assistant Dean, joined GW in September, manages Mount Vernon Campus.
  - **Jack Hatcher** – Graduate student in Civil & Environmental Engineering; Presidential Fellow.

### 2. Summer & Fall Campus Updates

- Summer term ends August 16; degrees conferred August 31.
- **Fall semester dates:**
  - First-year move-in: August 20–21
  - Upperclassmen return: August 23–24
  - Classes begin: August 25

### 3. Public Safety

- Nationwide search for new GWPB Chief of Police ongoing.
- Recent citywide emergency preparedness training hosted at GW's Smith Center.

### 4. Campus Resources

- **Mount Vernon Pool** is open; community members can inquire about access via email.
- **Tennis Courts** are managed by Dave Marshall Tennis. Courts are unlocked and striped for both tennis and pickleball (yellow tape used by camps).

### 5. Student Housing & Programs

- Approximately 350 GW students and 50 pre-college students on campus this summer.
- Expanded **Living Learning Communities (LLCs)**:

- Existing: Women's Leadership, Honors, Civic House, Politics & Values
- New: Sustainability, and Food Studies ("Harvest House" run by GW Food Institute founded by Chef José Andrés)
- Data shows LLCs lead to improved student engagement and belonging.

## 6. Campus Facilities

- **Eccles Library** is closed for the summer.
- **Summit Adventure Course** (low ropes course) has been renovated and is available for student and community retreats.
- Community spaces like the **chapel and patio** are available for events (recently hosted a wedding and quinceañera).
- **Softball field turf** replacement scheduled for completion by next Thursday.

## 7. Community Feedback

- **Sherry** raised concern about maintenance of the landscape buffer along W Street near the GW fence.
  - Reported slipping on tree droppings in the past.
  - Requested landscaping enhancements to match private neighbor standards.
  - GW staff agreed to notify facilities and grounds teams.
- **Sherry** expressed interest in a future **campus tour**. Betsy offered to coordinate this in the fall.

## 11. Closing & Next Steps

- Next community meeting scheduled for **September 18**.
- Contact info for Kevin, Betsy, and Gabrielle Sosa provided.
- Encouragement to report any student behavior concerns via GW's online reporting portal (SOS).