

The following are questions submitted to the University of Pittsburgh by a community resident:

Updated 4/9/2019

- 1) As you know, it took nearly five months for my 18 questions to be answered by university officials. I would like you to focus on one question that was not answered honestly. In the list of questions, I had previously mentioned that the purpose of the city's \$3 million dollar grant application with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development was to build a roadway from the old Almono site in Hazelwood, through The Run and Panther Hollow, and to Pitt and CMU. I then said that at a December 7, 2015 community meeting concerning the above mentioned roadway, Director of City Planning Ray Gastil said the roadway would traverse the back area of Pitt's Panther Hollow parking lot. I asked the question: "Who at the University of Pittsburgh said to the city that this property could be used for a roadway?" The answer was: "The University of Pittsburgh does not have plans to transition that property into a roadway." That response does not answer the question honestly. Once again, who at the University of Pittsburgh said to the city that this property could be used for a roadway? Provide the name or names of those individuals. The chancellor would have the answer.

We are not aware of anyone at the University authorizing the use of Pitt's Panther Hollow parking lot for a roadway.

- 2) When the streets in the heart of our business district are being decimated by predominantly dormitories, student housing, and university-owned buildings, how can you grow an eclectic, multi-ethnic, longtime residential community?

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to continuing to invest in the Oakland Business Improvement District through direct annual support, partnership for events and programming, and participation through having representatives active on the Board of Directors amongst other activities. While students should be considered part of the residential community and neighbors that contribute during their time in Oakland, single family owner-occupied housing was identified as a priority that the University of Pittsburgh has supported through a \$250,000 loan to the Oakland Community Land Trust as well as a \$40,000 contribution towards operating expenses for OPDC above and beyond the annual support that Pitt contributes to neighborhood quality of life programming.

- 3) On July 31, 2015, the city applied for a \$3 million dollar grant with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The purpose of the application was to build a roadway from the old Almono site in Hazelwood, through The Run and Panther Hollow, and to Pitt and CMU. The city stated in the application that it is in partnership with the Urban Redevelopment Authority, CMU, and Pitt. The university never told our community that it opposes this roadway. Why does the university support this roadway knowing that it will have tragic consequences for our two neighborhoods? The chancellor would have the answer.

As of February 14, 2019, the University of Pittsburgh has not taken a position on the proposed Hazelwood Connector project proposed by the City of Pittsburgh. As stated in the February 11, 2019 Institutional Master Plan Meeting, the roadway is one of many different potential variables that may inform specifics within the mobility portion of the IMP.

- 4) At a December 7, 2015 community meeting concerning the above mentioned roadway, Director of City Planning Ray Gastil said the roadway would traverse the back area of Pitt's Panther Hollow parking lot. Who at the University of Pittsburgh said to the city that this property could be used for a roadway? The chancellor would have the answer.

The University of Pittsburgh does not have plans to transition that property into a roadway.

- 5) Has the university already expanded any of its operations into the Hazelwood neighborhood? There are currently Pitt affiliated professors and/or researchers working in partnership with Hazelwood community members on specific projects, but to date there are no official "operations" in the Hazelwood neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

- 6) Whether or not it is a part of the Institutional Master Plan, what future plans does the university have to expand in Hazelwood? The chancellor would have the answer.

Although Hazelwood is a neighboring community to Oakland, The University of Pittsburgh does not currently have plans to expand to the neighborhood aside from the potential for additional community engaged teaching, research, and service partnerships

- 7) Our community deserves an independent, honest, in-depth, Comprehensive Impact Statement as to how Pitt's Institutional Master Plan will affect the Oakland residential community. Why isn't the university providing this to the community?

The ongoing Institutional Master Plan process as well as the upcoming Oakland neighborhood plan process being led by the City of Pittsburgh are both ways in which the University of Pittsburgh will be able to assess its potential impact on the Oakland community. In addition to the meeting that you attended on February 11, 2019, there will be at least 3 additional opportunities for two way dialogue about the Institutional Master Plan. The University anticipates that any sort of impact statement or study will follow based on the specifics of these plans rather than in advance of all available data being collected and analyzed.

- 8) At the October 9, 2018 community meeting, Kevin Peterson from Ayers Saint Gross said that building student housing will result in lower rental fees for students than their current residential housing fees. What does a student at the Bouquet Gardens pay the university in monthly rent, and what is the highest monthly rent a student pays at a university dormitory?

On-campus housing is charged per semester rather than per month, a single at Bouquet Gardens is approximately \$4250. A single at Bouquet Gardens and Ruskin Hall are tied for the highest rent per semester at \$4250. This equates to a monthly rent of approximately of \$944 if divided over 9 months. According to a number of online sources, the current average cost of a one bedroom apartment in the city of Pittsburgh is at least \$1200 a month.

- 9) According to the U.S. News and World Report, the University of Pittsburgh in 2016 had the dubious distinction of having the highest in-state tuition in the country for a public university at \$18,192. The average tuition among the 316 ranked public colleges was \$8,893. Why has the university refused our community's request for the equivalent of \$4 of a student's tuition fee for an environmental program to end our horrific litter and trash problems? The chancellor would have the answer.

The University of Pittsburgh supports neighborhood clean up efforts through direct financial support of Oakland Planning and Development Corporation's programming.

- 10) We know the university has its own police force. However, why has the university refused our community's request to hire individuals to patrol our neighborhoods on weekends to report binge drinking problems, so that residents don't have to face the fear of retaliation by students for reporting these problems to police? The chancellor would have the answer.

The University of Pittsburgh Police have a weekend impact detail that sends additional officers to patrol the neighborhood every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The impact detail is 4-6 additional officers above the regular shift. In addition to the increased police presence, The University of Pittsburgh Office of Community and Governmental Relations regularly participates in Oakland neighborhood meetings and collaborates with the Office of Student Conduct in order to stay responsive to reports of disruptive student behavior.

- 11) Penn State has 46,606 students at its main campus and only 3,393 faculty. Pitt has 28,642 students at the Oakland campus, but has 5,074 faculty. Penn State receives \$860 million in research funds while Pitt receives \$550 million. Is the 28,642 figure correct for the number of Pitt students at the Oakland campus?

According to Institutional Research's Fall 2018 numbers, the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus enrolled 28,673 students (19,330 undergraduate and 9,343 graduate) and employed 5,195 faculty (748 of whom are part time). According to 2018 Economic Impact Report, Pitt received \$808 million in research funding in XXXX.

- 12) Pitt has continuously increased student enrollment. What is Pitt's future plan for increasing student enrollment?

Pitt's future undergraduate student enrollment is projected to be flat (no substantial increases) for the foreseeable future, but individual programs will see fluctuation over time. Birthrate trends suggest that the population of American high school graduates, and thus college undergraduates, will be decreasing within the next decade.

- 13) How does the university's Comprehensive Master Plan benefit Oakland's identity as a residential community?

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to actively participating in the City's Oakland Neighborhood Plan development and through that plan (and our participation in the Oakland planning process) identify strategies for Pitt's presence in Oakland to be a neighborhood enhancement and to be mutually beneficial for the University and members of the Oakland community.

- 14) Why couldn't Nordenberg Hall be converted for use by upperclassmen to help stop the flow of student increases?

Pitt strongly encourages freshman students to live on campus. Nordenberg Hall, a freshman dormitory, helps us to accommodate the nearly 97% of first-year students living on campus. The

Institutional Master Plan calls for the development of additional dormitories to accommodate the demand for housing across the student body, including upperclassmen.

15) Decisions made by the university Board of Trustees have a tremendous impact on the lives of Oakland residents. Why can't our community contact these trustees through university email addresses?

Members of the public seeking to contact Pitt's Board of Trustees can do so via the Office of the Secretary (osec@pitt.edu)

16) Pitt's massive Homecoming Week fireworks display is a tradition that never should have begun. No other community in Pittsburgh has such a massive fireworks display so close to their homes that it affects their property and health. Why can't the university move the fireworks display to another venue outside of our community?

Per fire code, the Pitt fireworks display requires 300 yards of distance from the firework staging area to dwellings and structures in 360 degrees in all directions. To this required 300 yards, Pitt voluntarily adds an additional 25 yards for an abundance of caution. Other similar firework displays, in similar proximity to residences, include those used downtown and on the North Side. The location of our firework staging area (Mazerowski Field) exceeds the required safety yardage and also minimizes the number of street closures and traffic disruptions that would be caused by placing the firework display in other parts of campus.

17) Where else in America does a university have ownership of over 90 buildings within its host community?

Urban-located institutions within the American Association of Universities that have similar student enrollments to Pitt occupy similar numbers of buildings to the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland Campus:

- University of Chicago lists 149 buildings within its building directory
- Columbia University lists 121 buildings within its building directory
- Georgia Tech lists more than 106 buildings within its central region of campus according to its online campus map
- Boston University's two primary campuses (located in the City of Boston and Town of Brookline) contain 320 buildings according to their 2009 accreditation report published online

18) What other community in America has lost more than 80% of its residential population due mainly to a university's presence?

Additional research will have to be completed in order to identify communities that have faced a residential population decline as a result of a University's presence.

19) What is the university's higher priority: Dignity for Oakland residents, or never-ending expansion of the university? Choose one.

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to a thriving Oakland for all.