

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Subject: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:
Development Plan Modification No. 1

Meeting Date: June 12, 2003

Recommendation: That the Historic District Commission forwards the following comments to the Town Council for consideration during the Council's review of the UNC Development Plan Modification No. 1 application.

Vote: 6 - 0

Comments:

The consensus of the Historic District Commission is that any development must minimize its affect on the surrounding area, in this case most importantly, the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. The Cemetery is significant to the Town and to the University as the final resting place for many of the Town's and the state's more prominent figures, and is a national register listed historic property.

Here are some of the comments of commission members.

1. The proposed changes to the UNC Development Plan Modification are not minor. They are major.
2. Four (4) out of the six (6) members present at the June 12, 2003 meeting felt strongly the proposed structures should not be built on this site. The structures would not be congruous with the height, setbacks, and placements, form and proportions and architectural scale of the surrounding buildings. In addition, the use of this area is both inappropriate and in conflict with the University's efforts to discourage traffic in the center of campus and with community reverence for the cemetery.
3. If a parking deck and chiller plant must be located in the central campus area, the Commission suggests a reconfiguration of the site plan. Buildings should be positioned farther from the cemetery. Consideration should also be paid to lighting, buffers, and traffic patterns, both automobile and pedestrian (locating a deck at this site will increase foot traffic through the cemetery).

Prepared by:

Chris Belcher, Chair, Historic District Commission *CP for CB*
Kay Pearlstein, Staff