

Statement Given by Howard Kassler
Chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay

at the Public Meeting held on June 26, 2013

The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) urges Fisher College to withdraw its Institutional Master Plan (IMP) immediately and seek expansion opportunities outside the Back Bay.

Fisher's proposed plan completely disregards established and long-standing zoning and building use standards.

The College's desire to increase enrollment, dormitories and other facilities around its Beacon Street location is wholly unsuitable for this residential neighborhood. It runs counter to existing City of Boston policies that strongly discourage expansion of educational institutions in the historic district of the Back Bay.

The Back Bay is a vibrant, historic neighborhood. The 15,000 residents who live here know how special it is and they are united in efforts to protect it.

NABB and the City of Boston created development policies nearly 35 years ago to protect and preserve the neighborhood. These policies provide specifics on building height, density, and uses appropriate for the residential district. Many of the proposals in this IMP just fly in the face of these critical guidelines.

This IMP is an attack on the zoning and architectural regulations that have successfully protected this historic residential neighborhood for decades.

NABB does recognize Fisher's desire to expand, but we cannot consider, much less support, plans that will threaten the quality of life and property values of hundreds of Fisher neighbors. Again, Fisher should withdraw this plan and seek alternative growth opportunities in more suitable locations.