

City Planning Commission Remarks
June 24, 2010

Good evening. My name is Amelia Ray. I graduated from Scripps College in Claremont and am currently a chemistry Masters student here at USF. Although I have not taken lab courses here, I have taught a number of them and would like to share with you what I have heard from my students and my friends.

I can honestly say that our current lab spaces are dated. Many students have commented on their first day in lab that they had nicer and more current lab space in their High Schools. The space we have now does limit what we can do in these lab courses and is, quite frankly, disappointing as a first impression of what this school and community has to offer to the Sciences.

Last June I saw the plans for the new building for the first time. Even though I knew that I would never get to use the space personally, I excitedly called my parents to tell them about it. In my opinion it is a well thought out design. It not only provides much needed modernization, but will give students greater access to collaborative spaces. In our current building each scientific discipline is separated from the others, creating an isolated feel. Science is about collaboration, about sharing ideas and about helping each other. What we are currently missing is a shared space where the disciplines can come together, where students can meet and study. The new building will give a much-needed boost to that collaborative atmosphere this school and community strives for. Like me, all of the students and friends I've talked to are super excited about this project.

Thank you.