



**DATE:** March 23, 2019  
**TO:** City of Austin Planning Commission  
**FROM:** Jordan McGee  
President of Urban Studies Society at the University of Texas at Austin  
Kevin Quist  
Officer of Urban Studies Society at the University of Texas at Austin  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Changes to the University Neighborhood Overlay

The Urban Studies Society at the University of Texas at Austin supports the proposed changes to the University Neighborhood Overlay (UNO) and we highly recommend its adoption. We support the changes in order to promote affordability, diversity, beauty and livability in West Campus. Specifically, we believe that eliminating parking requirements and increasing the on-site affordable housing density bonus program will improve the West Campus neighborhood and the lives of many students at the University of Texas at Austin. These amendments specifically help improve affordability in the neighborhood. Underground parking spaces can cost \$50,000 per parking spot, and parking minimums inevitably cause rents to rise. Increasing the density bonus program should lead to more affordable units being created and more homes in general. This too would be good for the neighborhood (and the entire city of Austin).