

Student	Other	Com mitte e	Meet w/JKG	Send info	
Grad		X		X	<p>2/10/17</p> <p>As a graduate student invested in the future of the Oxford Tract Research Facility I am interested in the Program Committee mentioned by Vice Chancellor and Provost Christ. Will this committee have graduate student representation? If so I would love to volunteer.</p> <p>Further, I was wondering if a copy of the report prepared by you in September 2016 is available to the public and whether or not I could receive a copy of that? It would be helpful moving forward to understand the departments initial stance on the possible development.</p> <p>1/29/17</p> <p>I would also add a few comments/concerns. Hands-on education has become a focal point of the Global Food Initiative, as well as the subject of several recent reports and symposiums. The Oxford Tract serves over 100 students every Fall, is crucial to our summer internships and research and is a used by many graduate students like myself for research purposes. Personally, accessibility to Oxford Tract was a key factor in my decision to pursue graduate studies at Berkeley. During recent job talks, potential candidates were energized to know they would have access to land for research and a venue to teach students methodologies and do student-led experiments.</p> <p>Gill Tract is a great location but often in high demand and also difficult to get a class to weekly without additional funding. I urge the department to stand by students and defend their access to OT and to the Student Organic Garden. I know students are impacted by housing issues, as are graduate students and many others in our community. However, housing pressures are a long-standing issue in our community, and lack of planning or foresight on behalf of the University should not come at the cost of educational opportunities for our students. I assure you that students and alumni that have poured their hearts and labor into SOGA and those who have had their hands in the soil at OT and Gordon's bee laboratory will take issue with its loss.</p>
CRS Maj	Migr Student Organic Garden	X	X	X	<p>3/6/17</p> <p>First of all, I would like to let you know that representatives of our group are looking to meet with you as soon as possible to express our concerns regarding the potential development at the OxfordTract. I am sure Dr. Huntsinger will communicate some of points from today's meeting we had with EVCP Christ, and we would like to discuss them with you in person. If possible, please let me know how we could schedule a meeting with you.</p> <p>Secondly, we would greatly appreciate if you could send us your September 2016 report on the impacts of a possible re-purposing of the Oxford Tract. This facility is crucial for our education and research, and we currently do not believe that relocation is a viable option. We would like to read this report to understand your perspective on this facility, as the Dean of the College of Natural Resources - a college whose mission in deeply rooted in agriculture.</p> <p>Lastly, I am interested in the program committee co-chaired by Tsu-Jae King Liu and yourself. I would like to be a part of this committee. Our group believes that the body of students, researches and faculty involved with the Oxford Tract must well-represented in this committee by many members - otherwise our voices might not be heard.</p>

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		X			<p>2/23/17</p> <p>I would be interested in serving on the committee that Carol Christ mentioned below in her message, if it's possible/appropriate. I have been in touch with Claire and Alastair about this, and they thought it would be fine for me to volunteer, to represent BFI. If you have already formed the committee and there is no further space, I certainly understand, but I just wanted to offer.</p> <p>2/3/17</p> <p>Weighing in this issue, I'd like to add the following on behalf of BFI:</p> <p>The Berkeley Food Institute recognizes that the Oxford Tract is the home for critical research that is leading the field on sustainable agriculture, and provides many unique on-campus learning opportunities for students. This research is imperative in today's political environment; and the specific educational opportunities at the Oxford tract and student garden are also crucial for meeting the high level of student interest and demand, and particularly essential for the success of the new Food Systems minor.</p> <p>We also recognize the urgent need to increase availability of affordable housing for UC Berkeley students. Through our partnership with the UC Berkeley Basic Needs Security Council, we are working to address the fact that many within the UC Berkeley community are struggling to afford a safe place to live and sufficient food to eat.</p> <p>We believe there are creative ways to expand housing in other locations, while preserving the unique research and learning opportunities that the Oxford Tract provides. We look forward to participating in concerted efforts to find a solution that supports both the basic needs of our students and protects the Oxford tract for the outstanding research and educational opportunities that makes UC Berkeley a world-renowned institution.</p>
CRS		X			<p>2/14/17</p> <p>My name is Grace Treffinger and I am a CNR student studying Conservation Resource Studies and GIS-T. I received an e-mail today including a letter from Carol Christ encouraging students who are interested to join the program committee, which will make decisions regarding the future of the Oxford Tract. I would like to learn more about this committee. Please let me know as this progresses.</p>
		X			<p>2/14/17</p> <p>I would like to be included in future conversations/ committee meetings regarding the Oxford Tract.</p>
					<p>2/9/17</p> <p>I think of myself as a fairly pragmatic person, and I can now see the writing on the wall fairly clearly. I use ~3000sqft of greenhouse space every year at OT when experiments are going on. The assumption is that that amount of space will not be available for our group in the future - maybe some, but not 3K sqft. I will have a few options to consider, from shifting much of our research to topics that don't need much if any greenhouse space (which will also mean tackling new research questions with new tools and approaches) to leaving UCB altogether (which would be easy at this stage, but not something I am eager to think about). The leadership position we have in my field is partly based on the fact we can do complex experimental manipulations that very few other groups even attempt to do</p> <p>So my question is fairly simple, do you have any idea when campus expects to make a move on this? If I am to reinvent myself/my group, I would like to do that with enough time to develop a sustainable research group - natural selection leads to adaptation, but most random mutations disappear on the way, and I would like to have plenty of time to think as well as act before change arrives.</p>

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					<p>1/29/17</p> <p>Given the need to preserve land for agricultural research, part of the mission of Berkeley as land grant University, I would like to know what was the position that CNR took in relation to this decision by the Campus to devote the Oxford Tract to build student housing. Did you oppose this decision that clearly will severely impact research and teaching related to agroecology, urban agriculture and other areas highly demanded by the student and the public. I dont know the composition of the committee led by Executive Associate Dean Lindow, but as a Faculty that uses the Oxford Tract regularly I was not consulted, nor the students that use the student garden.</p> <p>The Campus has much land available ( as well as abandoned buildings) in the Kerr campus where such housing could be located. There are also other areas available such as the old museum. Why pick the last piece of agricultural arable land (class 1-2 soil) in Berkeley? A piece of land that is a key teaching and research area easily available for students to get to, a major limitation of the Gill Tract. Was the city of Berkeley ( Major Arreguin has great interest in urban agriculture and preserving agricultural land) and the neighbors of the Oxford Tract been consulted? I am sure they will have something to say about this.</p> <p>I would encourage CNR to hold a downhill meeting in order for us as a community discuss this issue and come up with a clear position and vision about the future of CNR and its scarce land resources</p>
					<p>1/29/17</p> <p>The soil at the Oxford tract is not class 1 or 2. The USDA map lists it as class 3 using the Storie California Index. Real data, not assertions, are important particularly in early 2017.</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>Being outside of PMB and ESPM even I can see the clear need to maintain the Oxford track as an urban agricultural laboratory. A laboratory to addresses future issues of plant ecology, biology, genetics, and productivity, in the face of environmental stresses such as deteriorated soil and water quality, climate change and population. The opportunity for investigators to have this urban field laboratory in conjunction with the other campus resources (in the natural and social sciences) to develop working solutions that address these pressing issues of our landscape, is unique and vital. It is difficult to understand why the importance of this vision is so clouded that arbitrary housing real-estate has become the focus. This choice for housing is irreversible. It buries a fertile soil for creativity and actualization that seems central to our College mission</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>I support and agree with my colleagues well spoken reason to protect oxford track. Campus should have other property they can use for housing</p> <p>thanks for passing the report on. As a member of CEP I do sympathize with the need for more, better and affordable housing, and yet meet our college needs.</p> <p>I like your point about looking at google earth. I saw the report and saw nothing mentioned about teh abandoned houses on walnut, near Berkeley Way. isnt that UC property. Granted they may not build a huge number of beds, but looks like it could be developed for a few 100 spaces.</p>
					<p>2/13/17</p> <p>Having affordable student housing here is a good idea.</p> <p>Put move the greenhouses to the roof.</p>
					<p>1/29/17</p> <p>Only half facetiously: The Chancellors garden would be a truly excellent spot for additional student housing and classroom space. It is the most underutilized piece of ground in the whole bay area.</p> <p>Good luck to us in defending agriculture against the citification. History doesn't seem much on our side.</p>

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					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>I wonder if there's something I can do as an NAS member or former associate dean that can help with this. I would like to do what I can.</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>I share many of the concerns that Miguel, Gordon, Michael and Matteo so correctly point out. To loose the Oxford Tract facility would have a serious damaging effect on plant-based research and education at Berkeley and could compromise our programs. Being an "urban" institution means we have to be especially mindful of holding on to such a valuable resource not only because of all of the research and education it helps to support but also because unlike places like UC Davis we do not have other options nearby. Plus the staff and recharge structure really work well for all of us at Berkeley and I certainly have made good use of it over the years. Without key facilities that support the research endeavor like the Oxford Tract we simply cannot continue to be world leaders as we have always been. There are other options for housing in an urbanized area like Berkeley that I would like to see campus focus its attention on and not remove the only real option we have for growing plants close to our campus-based research labs.</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>let us all remember that the City of Berkeley begged the campus to build housing where they built the new Missy Franklin memorial swimming pool. Maybe instead of destroying our research and teaching facilities, they could build the housing over the pool</p>
					<p>1/29/17</p> <p>I would strongly echo the statement the Miguel Altieri has sent to you regarding the use of the Oxford field area. It is an extremely important part of the research and teaching resources that we have come to use very frequently and greatly value. I can, of course, give you all the details you may need to justify my statement, but to lose this field area would be one more item to add to how the University is losing more and more of its opportunities to educate its students. It is bad enough that there is no more \$\$ to fund quality field trips (ESPM 100), and now this possible loss.</p> <p>The idea that the Gill Tract can be used to pick up the loss at the Oxford has obvious reasons for a non-workable option. How do students get to the Gill Tract? And then there is the student organic garden, which is always full of eager students. Another loss??????</p> <p>I would be happy to provide more information on what this means to the teaching and research programs that I operate. We should meet and discuss this matter as a faculty.</p>

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					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>There is one other matter than may not get enough attention regarding the value of the Oxford Tract, and that is its outreach uses, which go on quietly. The student organic garden is always hosting events that allow the public access; this in addition to the students it continues to attract who want to learn about gardening.</p> <p>Miguel's classes and his students are always out there learning about the experimental work he is doing. He also has visitors from other countries who visit his garden plots. I have met several of these professionals.</p> <p>Then there is my diverse bee garden that started in 2003 and continues today. We open it and lead tours for local schools, community colleges, master gardeners, and most importantly to a wide variety of garden lovers once a year to the local "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour". There are about 35-40 gardens in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that also participate in showing off some aspect of their gardens. We are usually the only ones that shows off pollinators, and especially native bees. We give talks, distribute brochures and show our collected bees. We also have games for kids. We have a lot of return gardeners who come back to see more and share results of their habitat gardening. We attract 350-500 people one Sunday in May each year.</p> <p>The take home message here is we are all doing some kind of outreach work showing how the Ag and Natural Resources part of our College are doing some of its field work. More could be done and Jennifer Sowerwine has suggested a list of what we could be doing with a little help from the administration.</p> <p>I would suggest soliciting stories from others on outreaching at the Oxford. The University has a great opportunity to show off some of its science at the Oxford Tract.</p> <p>Finally, I would add that I make good use of the indoor facilities at the Oxford Tract in addition to the field. I don't know where I would go locally without field and building space if the Oxford were to go for another use. I now maintain a lab and office space in 150/151 Oxford Tract where we do a great deal of our work as it pertains to bee collections and identifications. Just today we brought in 4 Cal Academy insect cabinets that were donated from the USDA for housing all the collections that we continue to add on CA bees from our Ag work in NorCal and SoCal, and also at Mt. Diablo and vicinity.</p> <p>Hope this info is useful.</p>

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					<p>2/5/17</p> <p>Several individuals have shared their opinions with you about the value of the Oxford Tract to their research and teaching at UCB. I want to add one more letter about the value of the Tract to my specific bee research</p> <p>I started the bee garden at the OT in 2003 with the goal of learning and exploring relationships of native bees to their preferred host flowers, both native and nonnative species. We brought numerous plant species to the garden and also made observations on these plants in gardens throughout California (in 15 cities). The goal was to develop understanding about how native bees relate to host flowers and their pollen and nectar resources. We were striving for predictable info on bees and their floral preferences, and how we could use the info to construct bee habitat gardens.</p> <p>This work led to numerous invitations to speak at events to describe our findings, and also to the development of our website (helpabee.org), which gives an excellent overview of our work. It is now presented in Spanish and English. In 2014, we published a 300 pg. book on 15 years of our work through Heyday publisher in Berkeley.</p> <p>This continuing development of new info led to an invitation in 2009 from the USDA-NRCS to bring our urban-bee-flower knowledge to CA agriculture, starting in Brentwood, Contra Costa Co., with the goal of evaluating native bees as supplemental pollinators to honey bees of crop flowers. This work has been well supported by the NRCS and has led to a very successful project that has shown that native bees can be good pollinators of CA crop flowers side-by-side with honey bees. The work was inspired by continuing problems with honey bees throughout the nation and world, and the need to look for other pollinators of crop flowers. Numerous large grants have supported our work since 2009, and the University has, of course, gathered up the indirect \$\$ in the process. That is an obvious outcome of our work, which had its beginning at the Oxford Tract. The OT work saved us a great deal of time in working locally on bee-flower evaluation work. Since the early research on native bees in Brentwood, we have expanded our work to the avocado orchards in SoCal and have been well funded for the work.</p> <p>One of the other facets of our work is inviting undergrads to join us in work at the OT and now in the farm sites (10) in Brentwood and 8 farm sites in the Ventura area of SoCal. We never lack for students who want to work and learn from our experiences. This semester we have 8 students working with us.</p> <p>The "take home message", is that it all started at the OT where it continues today.</p>
					<p>1/29/17</p> <p>Hi All: It is possible that one or more of the new Plant Biology Division hires happening now will have serious need for farming facilities (Ag research), and field proximity of ag plants to the lab is THE most valuable trait of a field. Please touch base with PMB. Additionally, the Oxford Tract could bring cutting-edge research and researchers into "contact" with our community. That is, Crispr-Cas9 in the service of stress-tolerant crops/ young researchers in lab coats/ tractors and drip irrigation systems/ individually chipped research plants in the field/ and our sweet community-- all in one spot-- has all the characteristics of a truly unique patch of farmland. There are so few plots of urban research farmland left on earth; (one in central Beijing, certainly). Buildings are common, and get uglier and uglier every year.</p> <p>I'm thinking that this uniqueness might be a terrific outreach/PR opportunity; build some catwalks, learning kiosks, and some parking spots for food trucks. Unique is unique, and as population continues to expand, an Oxford Tract farm could get more unique (and famous) year by year. One bad decision, and it's gone forever. Good luck,</p>

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					<p>1/29/17</p> <p>As an Extension specialist working on pathogens and sure to be representing also those specialists working with pests and crop improvement, I simply cannot emphasize enough the absolute need for greenhouse space near campus. If Berkeley decided to wipe out the Oxford tract it will have to relocate us probably to another campus, thus possibly getting a step closer to losing Land Grant status. I think this could be disastrous for our college and the entire campus.</p> <p>On top of that, we have had recent new hires who accepted positions based also on the availability of the Oxford tract. I think they would have a good case against the university if that facility were to be wiped out</p>
					<p>2/5/17</p> <p>Dr. Thrupp has written a very well-balanced, concise, lucid, logical, and compelling argument for preserving and protecting the Oxford Tract while, at the same time, easily providing enough affordable housing, within walking distance of the campus, to meet the needs of all Berkeley students.</p> <p>She is to be congratulated; and I ask everyone to join me in whole-heartedly supporting her argument.</p>
					<p>2/1/17</p> <p>All sounds fair.</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>I think that CNR and UCANR are working on a MOU for the AES/CE mission at Berkeley. Might the Oxford Tract be included in that MOU as a critical component of the ANR mission here in CNR?</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>I really appreciate your reasoned approach to this very important topic.</p>
					<p>1/29/17</p> <p>I echo what my colleagues have already pointed out and also add that eradicating this space for agricultural research goes contrary to recent initiatives that CNR has strongly supported, such as the creation of the Food Systems Minor and hiring new faculty in agroecology who will use this space for teaching and research. Agroecology is a core course for the The Food Systems minor, and a viable agroecology course must have a field component, which the Oxford Tract is best-suited to supply. Further, I would like to point out that Gordon Frankie's native pollinator garden is an exceptional creation which has been developed over decades to support native pollinators and serve as a demonstration site. It would be very short-sighted for the University to get rid of these valuable and unique resources that we need for teaching, research and outreach.</p>
					<p>1/31/17</p> <p>Fill up People's Park with Housing.</p> <p>If they want to get rid of a Unit, locate it in the Gill tract. Rising Bay Level will do the job.</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>I add my support to keeping Oxford Tract available for teaching and research, and as a gentle reminder that farm land where food is raised still exists.</p> <p>I further make the following pitch for not only keeping Russell Reserve, but returning it to active status.</p> <p>One of the great weaknesses of forestry research is the maintenance of long-term forest trials. Russell not only has such long-term trials still growing, but has the added advantage of being near enough to Berkeley so that students can access it.</p> <p>A fundamental problem facing Earth is we now have too many people with the bad luck of being born in places that can't reasonably support them. But unlike Earth, which has no alternative planets, a solution to too many students at Berkeley is to build additional campuses, rather than wrecking Berkeley in the service of additional students.</p>

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					<p>2/1/17</p> <p>As I view it and trust many will agree, the Oxford Tract, just like our labs, is an integral part of the college teaching and research--it co-exists with the college. We simply cannot function with this facility not in walking distance--Just imagine how things work with our labs and offices 20' drive apart. If the campus decides to relocate the facility, they must relocate our college with it!</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>I wanted to share this short video that the UC GFI video project filmed in my section of ESPM 117 during Fall 2015 semester.  <a href="https://vimeo.com/157412253">https://vimeo.com/157412253</a></p> <p>I am compiling some testimonials from all of the groups that benefited from SOGA and the OT during that semester including the Berkeley Rose School, John Muir and Malcom X Elementary Schools, the Berkeley Food Pantry, the Student Parent Association for Recruitment and Retention, and many others.</p> <p>I am also a student who has faced housing insecurity and eviction due to rising housing costs. I have personally spoken with Mayor Arreguin about my experiences. Destroying the last urban farming land easily accessible to students is NOT the solution to the housing crisis.</p> <p>I will send more testimonials as I gather them</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>Many thanks for clarifying the fact that we are at the start of the Oxford Tract discussion rather than the end. This was my take on your original email on the subject, but others clearly were unsure. Since I have both a lab and a major interest in the insectary/greenhouses at the NRL this issue is of particular concern for me, and I look forward to participating in further discussion. One additional question related to the Oxford Tract issue now arises. From 1-3 rooms of the insectary at the Oxford Tract has been out of use for the past 6 months due to failed a/c units and Physical Plant must be giving these repairs very low priority. The CNR facilities team have been unable to help us move the repairs forward and so the question now is whether OT repairs have been put on hold until the student housing question has been resolved?</p> <p>Could you and/or Steve look into the question of why we are unable to get repairs made to the insectary at the NRL?</p>



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					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>Thank you, Leslie, Josh, Miguel, Dean Gillless and all who have shared.</p> <p>Though it sounds like discussions are early yet, this news about the Oxford Tract is extremely concerning. I sincerely hope that we will be able to have an open meeting for students, faculty, and staff to participate in any decisions about the future of this land.</p> <p>As communications coordinator for the Center for Diversified Farming Systems, I often liaise with prospective students – especially those interested in coming to UC Berkeley to study sustainable food and farming. Inevitably, they ask: Is there a campus farm? Is there a student garden? Where are the opportunities for hands-on agricultural research? We are very fortunate to have the Oxford site, but in truth, we are falling far behind. Campuses including Stanford, NC State, MSU, Portland State, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis (I could go on) have working farms and gardens far exceeding our facilities. These spaces – as the peer-review literature points out – provide a range of pedagogical, scientific, and cultural benefits to researchers and surrounding communities.</p> <p>As Josh mentioned, the UC Global Food Initiative recognizes the value of hands-on education and experiential learning. The national Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (of which I am a member) also supports such work – and at the 2016 conference it was evident that interest in this area continues to grow.</p> <p>On a personal note, I was able to participate in a summer agroecology shortcourse held in part on the Oxford Tract back in 2013. That experience informed one of my first peer-review articles, gave me insights into urban food policy, and opened up work that I currently pursue on the history and politics of land grant research. I am far from alone in having been touched by the OT. Generations of students who have designed, taught, and taken ESPM 117 include people such as Albie Miles (now a professor of agroecology at the University of Hawaii) and Nathan McClintock (a professor of urban studies and planning at Portland State). These folks are expanding the sphere of learning begun at the OT, ensuring more thinking and practice will grow.</p> <p>No one is denying, of course, that lack of affordable housing is a huge dilemma. Hopefully we will be able to discuss how to meet that challenge in full light of the values - for students, for Berkeley citizens, for the environment - currently generated by this sometimes underappreciated space.</p>
Grad					<p>2/22/17</p> <p>As a UC Berkeley graduate student, I'd like to express my support for building housing on the Oxford Community Garden. As much as I love gardens and community, I think we need lower housing costs more. So build it tall!</p>

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					<p>1/31/17</p> <p>I've seen a lot of changes at Oxford Tract over the past 40+ years. My first office and "lab" for over 15 years was at Oxford tract, beginning in 1974. Another 6 or more faculty also ran their operations out of Oxford Tract. It took over 20 years for me to get space on campus. Although I am long retired, I continue to use space at Oxford Tract for doing and assisting research. I strongly support the arguments others have made for keeping the open space at Oxford Tract. Here are some other observations I would like to add. We have underutilized Oxford Tract's potential to support research and teaching. Why? New facilities have been added for the research mission rather than keeping up with the changes in science or teaching. Once paved over, it is gone forever as open space. What we have there now is more valuable than lawns. Other urban spaces closer to campus can be adopted for housing. New greenhouses and a lab building have been added to Oxford Tract over the past 50+ years. In every case, upkeep of the buildings has been neglected. The largest and oldest greenhouse shows the most neglect. It has never been painted since its construction in the early 1960s. Its roof is leaking badly. Other infrastructure has deteriorated or been abandoned. The greenhouses are still indispensable for plant based research, especially where molecular biology meets organism-based research. Its proximity to the northwest corner of the campus is important for its use by faculty and students The field space north of the greenhouses was underused immediately after the corn genetics crops were moved from there, but now is actively used. Others have pointed out its importance to our College, and I argue that its use should be extended to other departments outside the College. The Oxford tract open space continually advertises to the public Berkeley's commitment to agriculture and the environment. Moving operations to GillTract or Albany has been considered several times before, but researchers have weighed in strongly against such a plan simply because it is so far from campus. This would be especially onerous for students.</p>
					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>These comments point out clearly the impact of the Oxford facility on the excellence (and top rankings) of our teaching, research, and outreach programs, and in particular, the importance of its unique urban-campus location, which simply can not be duplicated elsewhere. That Oxford is on the list indicates the campus has not (yet) understood the value of Oxford to its mission and our programs. Our ESPM council and I will work with leaders in PMB and CNR to draft a coordinated response. If you have other comments, particularly points that have not been covered below, please also send to me and Kris, niyogi@berkeley.edu. As if we didn't have enough to think about!</p>
					<p>1/31/17</p> <p>Craig Calhoun, former director of the London School of Economics, gave a talk last week on "Managing the contradictions of the contemporary university". In that talk he pointed out that universities were in an arms race to look the best in hierarchical comparisons, which he translated into campus spending in three areas: better facilities for top researchers, maximizing student lifestyles on campus, and satisfying alumni bragging rights. Second, he noted that everyone talks about educational opportunities and collegiality as cornerstones of any university, but these values have become less tangible in college comparisons. That seems to frame the question about the loss of Gill Tract, as a symptom of a much deeper situation. From his perspective, the authors of this proposal are stuck in a system that can't properly recognize the education potential of Gill Tract, or its irretrievable loss. Still, suggesting that students can go up the road to get that experience may mean that they won't stop at Albany.</p>
					<p>1/31/17</p> <p>Miguel, did you read the article? It says the same thing as the task force report.</p> <p>"The Oxford Street tract, which task force members believe will be able to support between 1,000 and 3,000 new beds for students in traditional and apartment-style residence halls, is also identified as a particularly alluring option. Christ said that the tract is "the site above all other sites that can have a transformational impact on the availability of housing on the campus."</p> <p>Respectfully, reply all is a terrible way to discuss this issue as a community. Could we please take this discussion offline?</p>

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					<p>1/30/17</p> <p>I concur. The Oxford tract facility is essential to my academic and AES mission as well as to those of my colleagues in PMB. We continually use the Oxford Greenhouses. My lab members are there most days of the week for a few hours. The proximity is critical as it allows them to work in the lab, the Oxford facilities, and attend and GSI classes. An off-site option would not work! Most students do not have cars and we also transport plants and equipment between the lab and Oxford facility.</p> <p>In addition to the Greenhouse, my lab is using environmental chambers at Oxford and filing a request for a field test of tomato lines. We need to enhance this facility, not loose it!</p> <p>PMB is also currently searching for three Plant Biology faculty. We have exceptional candidates and having the Oxford tract facility is essential to their recruitment and success.</p> <p>Finally, the new Innovative Genomics Institute includes a strong plant mission. Therefore, demand for proximal greenhouse and field space will only increase. Losing the Oxford tract facilities is not an option.</p>