

AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES INC
Form DEF 14A
March 21, 2013
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant x

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant ..

Check the appropriate box:

- .. Preliminary Proxy Statement
- .. Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- x Definitive Proxy Statement
- .. Definitive Additional Materials
- .. Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Not Applicable

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- x No fee required.
- .. Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: _____
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12700 Hill Country Blvd., Suite T-200

Austin, Texas 78738

March 20, 2013

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of American Campus Communities, Inc. to be held at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time) on Thursday, May 2, 2013, at our corporate office located at 12700 Hill Country Blvd., Suite T-200, Austin, Texas. A notice of the meeting, a proxy and a proxy statement containing information about the matters to be acted upon are enclosed.

Following the formal business session, there will be an opportunity for questions of general interest to the stockholders.

It is important that your shares be represented and voted whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person. If you choose not to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting in person, you may vote by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card. Voting by written proxy will ensure your shares are represented at the Annual Meeting. Please review the instructions on the proxy card or the information forwarded by your bank, broker or other holder of record regarding each of these voting options.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM C. BAYLESS, JR.

President and

Chief Executive Officer

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American Campus Communities, Inc.

12700 Hill Country Blvd., Suite T-200

Austin, Texas 78738

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held May 2, 2013

To the Holders of Common Stock of

AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES, INC.:

The 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of American Campus Communities, Inc., a Maryland corporation, will be held at our corporate office located at 12700 Hill Country Blvd., Suite T-200, Austin, Texas, on Thursday, May 2, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time) to consider and take action upon the following:

- (i) To elect seven directors to a one-year term of office expiring at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified;
- (ii) To ratify Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for 2013;
- (iii) To hold an advisory vote on executive compensation; and
- (iv) To consider and act upon any other matters that may properly be brought before the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The enclosed proxy card is solicited by our Board of Directors, which recommends that our stockholders vote FOR the election of the nominees named therein and FOR approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers. The Audit Committee, which has the sole authority to retain our independent auditors, recommends that you vote FOR the ratification of Ernst & Young as our independent auditors for 2013. Please refer to the attached Proxy Statement for further information with respect to the business to be transacted at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 11, 2013 as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments or postponements thereof. Only stockholders of record of our common stock at the close of business on that date will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person, please mark, execute, date and return the enclosed proxy in the postage-prepaid envelope provided. Should you attend the Annual Meeting in person you may, if you wish, withdraw your proxy and vote your shares in person.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

JONATHAN A. GRAF

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,

Treasurer and Secretary

Austin, Texas

March 20, 2013

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the

Annual Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on May 2, 2013.

This Proxy Statement, Annual Report to Stockholders and Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 are available at www.AmericanCampus.com/Investors/Proxy

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American Campus Communities, Inc.

12700 Hill Country Blvd., Suite T-200

Austin, Texas 78738

PROXY STATEMENT

The accompanying proxy card, to be mailed to stockholders together with the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and this Proxy Statement on or about March 25, 2013, is solicited by the Board of Directors of American Campus Communities, Inc. in connection with the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) to be held on May 2, 2013.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What am I voting on?

A: Election of seven directors to hold office for a one-year term, ratification of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for 2013 and approval of an advisory vote on executive compensation.

Q: Who is entitled to vote?

A: Stockholders as of the close of business on March 11, 2013 are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote.

Q: How do I vote?

A: Sign and date each proxy card you receive and return it in the prepaid envelope. If you do not mark any selections, the proxy holders named on your proxy card will vote your shares in favor of all of the director nominees, in favor of the ratification of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for 2013 and in favor of approval, on an advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers. You may change your vote or revoke your proxy at any time before the Annual Meeting by submitting written notice to our Secretary,

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submitting another proxy that is properly signed and later dated or voting in person at the Annual Meeting. In each case, the later submitted votes will be recorded and the earlier votes revoked. If you hold your shares in street name, please follow the procedures required by your bank, broker or other nominee to revoke a proxy. You should contact that firm directly for more information on these procedures.

Under New York Stock Exchange rules, the proposal to ratify the appointment of independent registered public accountants is considered a discretionary item. This means that brokerage firms may vote in their discretion on this matter on behalf of clients who have not furnished voting instructions at least 10 days before the date of the meeting.

In their discretion, the proxy holders are authorized to vote on any other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting and at any postponement or adjournment thereof. The Board knows of no other items of business that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting other than the proposals described in this Proxy Statement. In addition, no stockholder proposals or nominations were received on a timely basis, so no such matters may be brought to a vote at the Annual Meeting.

Q: Is my vote confidential?

A: Yes. Proxy cards, ballots and voting tabulations that identify individual stockholders are confidential. Only the inspectors of election and certain employees associated with processing proxy cards and counting the vote have access to your card. Additionally, all comments directed to management (whether written on the proxy card or elsewhere) will remain confidential, unless you ask that your name be disclosed.

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Q: Who will count the vote and how are votes counted?

A: All votes will be tabulated by the inspector of election appointed for the Annual Meeting, who will separately tabulate affirmative and negative votes and withheld votes and abstentions. In order to be elected as a director, a nominee must receive a plurality of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting at which a quorum is present. For election of directors, abstentions and broker non-votes will not affect the vote outcome. In order for Ernst & Young LLP to be ratified as our independent auditors for 2013 and for the advisory vote on executive compensation to be approved, the respective proposal must receive a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting at which a quorum is present. For ratification of the independent auditors for 2013, an abstention will have the same effect as an Against vote and, as this is a routine matter, there will not be any broker non-votes. For approval of the advisory vote on executive compensation, an abstention will have the same effect as an Against vote, but a broker non-vote will not affect the vote outcome. Broker non-votes are proxies from brokers or other nominees indicating that such person has not received instructions from the beneficial owner or other person entitled to vote the shares that are the subject of the proxy on a particular matter with respect to which the broker or other nominee does not have discretionary voting power.

Q: What constitutes a quorum?

A: As of the record date for the Annual Meeting, 104,776,745 shares of common stock were issued and outstanding. A majority of the outstanding shares, present or represented by proxy, constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted in determining the presence of a quorum.

Q: Who can attend the Annual Meeting?

A: All stockholders of record as of March 11, 2013 can attend.

Q: Who pays for this proxy solicitation?

A: We will bear the entire cost of solicitation of proxies, including preparation, assembly and mailing of this Proxy Statement, the proxy card and any additional information we furnish to stockholders. Copies of solicitation materials will be furnished to banks, brokerage houses, fiduciaries and custodians holding shares of our common stock in their names that are beneficially owned by others to forward to these beneficial owners. We may reimburse persons representing beneficial owners for their costs of forwarding the solicitation material to such beneficial owners. Original solicitation of proxies by mail may be supplemented by telephone, facsimile, electronic mail or personal solicitation by our directors, officers or employees. We will not pay any additional compensation to directors, officers or employees for such services.

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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There are currently seven directors on the Board, William C. Bayless, Jr., R.D. Burck, G. Steven Dawson, Cydney C. Donnell, Edward Lowenthal, Oliver Luck and Winston W. Walker. The employment agreement with Mr. Bayless provides that he will be nominated as a director. See Executive Compensation Employment Contracts. Directors elected at the Annual Meeting will hold office for a one-year term.

All nominees have consented to serve as directors. The Board has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unable to act as director. However, if a director is unable to stand for re-election, the Board may either reduce the size of the Board or the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may designate a substitute. If a substitute nominee is named, the proxies will vote for the election of the substitute.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting, which means the seven nominees who receive the largest number of properly cast votes will be elected as directors. Each share of our common stock is entitled to one vote for each of the seven director nominees. Cumulative voting is not permitted. It is the intention of the proxy holders named on the enclosed proxy card to vote the proxies received by them for the election of the nominees named below unless authorization to do so is withheld.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Composition

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee seeks directors with established strong professional reputations and experience in areas relevant to the strategy and operations of our business. Each of the nominees for election as a director at the Annual Meeting holds or has held senior executive positions in large, complex organizations and has experience that meets this objective, as described below. In these positions, they have also gained experience in core management skills, such as strategic and financial planning, public company financial reporting, compliance, risk management and leadership development. Each of our directors also has experience serving on or advising boards of directors and board committees of other companies and has an understanding of corporate governance practices and trends.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also believes that each of the nominees has other key attributes that are important to an effective board: integrity, candor, analytical skills, the willingness to engage management and each other in a constructive and collaborative fashion, and the ability and commitment to devote significant time and energy to service on the Board and its committees. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee takes into account diversity considerations in determining the director nominees and planning for director succession and believes that, as a group, the nominees bring a diverse range of perspectives to the Board's deliberations. Each of the nominees, other than Mr. Bayless, is independent of us and our management.

In addition to the above, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also considered the specific experience described in the biographical details that follow in determining to nominate the individuals set forth below for election as directors.

William C. Bayless, Jr. has been our President and Chief Executive Officer since October 2003 and has served on our Board of Directors since August 2004. Mr. Bayless is a co-founder of our company and participated in the founding of the student housing business of our predecessor entities. Mr. Bayless served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of our predecessor entities from July 1995 to September 2003, where he directed all aspects of our predecessor entities' business segments including business development, development and construction management, acquisitions and management services. He served as our Vice President of Development from the inception of our predecessor entities in 1993 until July 1995. Mr. Bayless served as the Director of Operations for Century Development's student housing division from 1991 to 1993. From 1988 to 1991, Mr. Bayless served as the Director of Marketing responsible for business development and marketing for the student housing division of Cardinal Industries. Mr. Bayless began his career in student housing with Allen & O'Hara where he held the positions of Resident Assistant, Resident Manager and Area Marketing Coordinator from 1984 to 1988. He received a B.S. in Business Administration from West Virginia University. Age: 48.

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Areas of Relevant Experience: Ability to lead our organization; detailed knowledge and unique perspective and insights regarding the student housing industry and the strategic and operational opportunities and challenges, economic and industry trends, and competitive and financial positioning of us and our business.

R.D. Burck has been our Independent Chairman of the Board since August 2004. Mr. Burck retired from the position of chancellor of The University of Texas System in 2002. Mr. Burck joined the University of Texas System in 1988 to serve as the vice chancellor of business affairs and then as executive vice chancellor for business affairs before being appointed by the Board of Regents as interim chancellor in June 2000 and chancellor six months later in December 2000. Mr. Burck worked worldwide for Getty Oil Co., headquartered in Los Angeles, from 1955 to 1984. In 1979, he was involved in the creation and served as director, as well as vice president, of ESPN, the first cable TV sports network. Mr. Burck is Chairman of Patton Medical Devices. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Frost Bank and serves as a trustee of The Rise School of Austin. He is a lifetime member of The University of Texas Exes and serves on the Executive Committee of the University of Texas System Chancellor's Council. He is on the Dolph Briscoe Advisory Council for the Center of American History and the University of Texas at Austin Development Board. He also has been a member of the board of the Texas Department of Information Resources, the board of the Texas Life, Accident, Health and Hospital Service Insurance Guaranty Association, the formal advisory committee of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the advisory council of the U.T. Austin College of Natural Sciences. Mr. Burck is a former director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and a former member of the boards of directors of Celo Data, Inc., the American Cancer Society, Womens3D, Inc. and the Headliners Club. Mr. Burck graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.B.A. He also attended the South Texas School of Law in Houston. Age: 80.

Areas of Relevant Experience: Operating environment and trends in university management; financial reporting and controls; corporate governance, organization and leadership.

G. Steven Dawson has served on our Board of Directors since August 2004. He has primarily been a private investor since 2003 and from 1990 to 2003 he served as the Chief Financial Officer of Camden Property Trust (NYSE:CPT) and its predecessors. Camden is a large multifamily REIT based in Houston with apartment operations, construction and development activities throughout the United States. Mr. Dawson currently serves on the boards of Institutional Financial Markets, Inc. (AMEX:IFMI), a broker-dealer with fixed income and structured credit securities trading operations in the U.S., Europe and Asia; and Medical Properties Trust (NYSE:MPW), a hospital/healthcare REIT. Mr. Dawson also serves as president, chief executive officer and trustee of American Manufactured Housing Real Estate Investment Trust, a privately-held Canadian trust that owns and operates manufactured housing properties, homes and a portfolio of related home loans in the U.S. Mr. Dawson previously served as a director of AmREIT (2000-2008), Alesco Financial Inc. (2007-2009) and Desert Capital REIT, Inc. (2004-2010). Mr. Dawson's other private interests are mostly related to real estate and financial services. Mr. Dawson holds a degree in business from Texas A&M University, where he serves on the Real Estate Roundtable of the Mays Graduate School of Business. Age: 55.

Areas of Relevant Experience: Financial reporting; accounting and controls; REIT management, real estate operations and development; manufacturing.

Cydney C. Donnell has served on our Board of Directors since August 2004. She has been the Director of Real Estate Programs and an Executive Professor at the Mays Business School of Texas A&M University, and has served as Associate Department Head of the Finance Department, since February 2011. Ms. Donnell has taught various subject matters, including real estate finance, investments and corporate governance, since August 2004. Ms. Donnell was formerly a principal and Managing Director of European Investors/E.I.I. Realty Securities, Inc. Ms. Donnell served in various capacities at EII and was Chair of the Investment Committee from 2002 to 2003, the Head of the Real Estate Securities Group and Portfolio Manager from 1992 to 2002 and Vice-President and Analyst from 1986 to 1992. Ms. Donnell served on the Board of European Investors Holding Company from 1992 to 2005. Prior to joining EII, she was a real estate lending officer at RepublicBanc Corporation in Dallas from 1983 to 1986. Ms. Donnell currently serves on the Board of Directors of Madison Harbor Balanced Strategies Inc., a closed-end investment fund registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and a REIT, and Pebblebrook Hotel Trust (NYSE:PEB), a hotel REIT. In 2007, Ms. Donnell was appointed to the Employees Retirement System of Texas Board of Trustees by Governor Rick Perry. Ms. Donnell has served on the Board and Institutional Advisory Committee of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, or NAREIT. She has also served in

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various leadership capacities for The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University and the Junior League of the City of New York. Ms. Donnell received a B.B.A. from Texas A&M University and an M.B.A. from Southern Methodist University. Age: 53.

Areas of Relevant Experience: Financial investment and services; REITs; corporate governance; university operations.

Edward Lowenthal has served on our Board of Directors since August 2004. He has been President of Ackerman Management LLC since April 2002, a private investment management and advisory company with particular focus on real estate and other asset-based investments. Mr. Lowenthal was a founder and served as the President of Wellsford Real Properties, Inc. (NYSE:WRP) from 1997 until 2002, which owned and operated multifamily apartments throughout the United States. Mr. Lowenthal serves as a director of Omega Healthcare Investors, Inc. (NYSE:OHI), a healthcare REIT, and Desarrolladora Homex, S.A. de C.V. (NYSE:HXM), a Mexican-based home builder. From 1997 to 2012, he was a member of the board of directors of Reis, Inc., an internet-based provider of real estate information and analytics and a successor, through mergers, to Wellsford Real Properties, Inc., and served as non-executive Chairman of Reis, Inc. from 2010 to 2012. Mr. Lowenthal serves as non-executive Chairman of Tiburon Lockers, Inc., a privately-held owner and operator of rental locker systems, and as a trustee of The Manhattan School of Music where he serves on its Vice Chair. He received a B.A. degree from Case Western Reserve University and a J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was an editor of the Georgetown University Law Journal. Age: 68.

Areas of Relevant Experience: Real estate investment and development; REIT management; law.

Oliver Luck has served on our Board of Directors since December 2012. Since 2010, he has been the Athletic Director of West Virginia University. From 2006 to 2010, Mr. Luck was the President/General Manager of the Houston Dynamo of Major League Soccer. From 2001 to 2005, Mr. Luck was the Chief Executive Officer of the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority, where he oversaw the financing, construction and management of professional sports and entertainment infrastructure in Houston, including Minute Maid Park, Reliant Stadium and Toyota Center. Mr. Luck worked for the National Football League from 1990 to 2001, where served in a variety of positions, including Vice President of Business Development and President and Chief Executive Officer of NFL Europe. Mr. Luck played quarterback for the Houston Oilers from 1982 to 1986. He is currently a member of the National Football League Player Safety Advisory Panel and has served in various capacities in a number of university and community associations. He was a finalist to be a Rhodes Scholar, a National Football Foundation Scholar and a two-time Academic All-American who received a B.A. degree from West Virginia University and a J.D. degree from University of Texas School of Law. Age: 52.

Areas of Relevant Experience: University management; business development and leadership; law.

Winston W. Walker has served on our Board of Directors since August 2004. Since October 1993, he has been a private consultant. From 1987 until October 1993, Mr. Walker served as the Chief Executive Officer of Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company of America. Mr. Walker is currently a member of the board of directors and the audit committee chair of CBL & Associates Properties, Inc. (NYSE: CBL), a shopping center REIT. Mr. Walker received a B.A. in Russian from Tulane University and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Georgia. Age: 69.

Areas of Relevant Experience: Insurance and risk management; financial reporting.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR ALL OF THE NOMINEES LISTED ABOVE.

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Board Committees

Audit Committee. The current members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. Dawson (Chairman), Burck and Walker. Each member of the Audit Committee satisfies the requirements for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the New York Stock Exchange's listing standards. The Board of Directors, after reviewing all of the applicable facts, circumstances and attributes, has determined that Mr. Dawson is an audit committee financial expert, as such term is defined in Item 407(d)(5)(ii) of Regulation S-K.

The Audit Committee operates under a written charter, which was adopted on August 17, 2004 and was subsequently amended in August 2005. The Audit Committee reviews and assesses the adequacy of its charter on an annual basis. A copy of the amended and restated charter can be viewed on our website at www.AmericanCampus.com. The Report of the Audit Committee is set forth on page 37 of this Proxy Statement.

The Audit Committee's responsibilities include assisting the Board in overseeing the integrity of our financial statements, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the independent auditors' qualifications and independence and the performance of our independent auditors. In addition, the Audit Committee reviews, as it deems appropriate, the adequacy of our systems of disclosure controls and internal controls regarding financial reporting and accounting. In accordance with its charter, the Audit Committee has the sole authority to appoint and replace the independent auditors, who report directly to the Audit Committee, approve the engagement fee of the independent auditors and pre-approve the audit services and any permitted non-audit services that the independent auditors may provide to us. The Audit Committee met eight times in 2012.

Executive Committee. Subject to the supervision and oversight of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, which currently consists of Messrs. Bayless (Chairman) and Burck and Ms. Donnell, has the authority to approve, subject to certain limitations, acquisitions, financings and dispositions and to authorize the execution, subject to certain limitations, of certain contracts and agreements, including those relating to the borrowing of money, and to exercise generally all other powers of the Board, except for those that require action by all directors or the non-employee directors under our articles of incorporation, bylaws or applicable law. The Executive Committee did not meet in 2012.

Compensation Committee. The current members of the Compensation Committee are Messrs. Walker (Chairman), Dawson and Lowenthal and Ms. Donnell. Each member of the Compensation Committee satisfies the requirements for independence set forth in the New York Stock Exchange's listing standards. The Compensation Committee operates under a written charter, which is reviewed and assessed for adequacy on an annual basis. A copy of the charter is available on our website at www.AmericanCampus.com. The Compensation Committee's responsibilities include overseeing our compensation programs and practices and determining compensation for executive officers. The Compensation Committee met six times in 2012.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The current members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are Messrs. Lowenthal (Chairman), Burck and Luck and Ms. Donnell. Each member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee satisfies the requirements for independence set forth in the New York Stock Exchange's listing standards. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee operates under a written charter, which is reviewed and assessed for adequacy on an annual basis. A copy of the charter is available on our website at www.AmericanCampus.com. The responsibilities of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee include assisting the Board in promoting our and our stockholders' best interests through the implementation of sound corporate governance principles and practices. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is also responsible for (i) identifying individuals qualified to become Board members, consistent with criteria approved by the Board, and recommending to the Board the director nominees for the next Annual Meeting, (ii) developing and recommending to the Board a set of corporate governance principles applicable to us, and (iii) overseeing the evaluation of the Board and management. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met three times in 2012.

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Consideration of Director Nominees

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider appropriate nominees for director whose names are submitted in writing by a holder of our common stock. Nominations must be addressed to Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, c/o American Campus Communities, Inc., 12700 Hill Country Blvd., Suite T-200, Austin, Texas 78738, indicating the nominee's qualification and other relevant biographical information and providing confirmation of the nominee's consent to serve as director. In order to be considered for the next annual election of directors, any such written request must comply with the requirements set forth in our bylaws.

The Chairman of the Board or the Chief Executive Officer or Board of Directors may call a special meeting of the stockholders. We will call a special meeting of stockholders upon the written request of the stockholders entitled to cast not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at such meeting, provided that such written request complies with the requirements set forth in our bylaws.

The committee considers nominees for the Board from any reasonable source, including current Board members, stockholders or other persons. While the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has the ability to retain a third party to assist in the nomination process, we have not paid a fee to any third party to identify or assist in identifying or evaluating potential nominees.

Each nominee for director at the 2013 Annual Meeting currently serves as a member of our Board.

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GOVERNANCE OF THE COMPANY

Board Independence and Meetings

Board Governance Documents. The Board maintains charters for all committees. In addition, the Board has adopted a written set of corporate governance guidelines and a code of business conduct and ethics. To view our committee charters, corporate governance guidelines and code of business conduct and ethics, please visit www.AmericanCampus.com. The Board has adopted and adheres to corporate governance practices that the Board and senior management believe promote the highest standards of integrity, are sound and represent best practices. The Board of Directors periodically reviews these governance practices, the rules and listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and SEC regulations, as well as best practices suggested by recognized governance authorities.

Independence; Lead Independent Director. Currently, the Board has seven directors. The Board of Directors has determined, after considering all of the relevant facts and circumstances, that six directors (Messrs. Burck, Dawson, Lowenthal, Luck and Walker and Ms. Donnell) are independent, as independence is defined by the New York Stock Exchange. This means that none of the independent directors has any direct or indirect material relationship with us, either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with us. As a result, the Board has a majority of independent directors on the Board as required by the listing requirements of the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. R.D. Burck serves as our Lead Independent Director.

Executive Sessions. Non-employee directors have regularly scheduled executive sessions in which they meet without the presence of management or management directors. These executive sessions typically occur after each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. Any independent director may request that an additional executive session be scheduled. The presiding director of these executive sessions is Mr. Burck.

Meetings. The Board of Directors met ten times in 2012. All directors attended at least 75% of the total number of meetings of the Board and committees, collectively, on which they served during 2012. All directors are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting. All except for one of the then current members of the Board attended the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Board Leadership Structure

Since our IPO in 2004, we have separated the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. Currently, Mr. Burck serves as the Chairman of the Board and Mr. Bayless serves as a director and Chief Executive Officer. The Board of Directors believes this is the most appropriate structure for us at this time because it makes the best use of Mr. Burck's skills and experience gained over a distinguished career, including as chancellor of The University of Texas System and as an executive of Getty Oil Co.

Board's Role In Risk Oversight

The Board as a whole has responsibility for risk oversight, with reviews of certain areas being conducted by the relevant committees that report on their deliberations to the Board. The oversight responsibility of the Board and its committees is enabled by management reporting processes that are designed to provide visibility to the Board about the identification, assessment and management of critical risks and management's risk mitigation strategies. These areas of focus include competitive, economic, operational, financial (accounting, credit, liquidity and tax), legal, regulatory, compliance, health, safety and environment, and reputational risks. The Board and its committees oversee risks associated with their respective principal areas of focus, as summarized below. Each committee meets in executive session with key management personnel and representatives of outside advisors (for example, the head of Internal Audit meets in executive session with the Audit Committee).

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Board/Committee	Primary Areas of Risk Oversight
Full Board	Strategic, financial and execution risks and exposures associated with annual operating and long term strategic plans, major litigation and regulatory exposures and other current matters that may present material risk to our operations, plans, prospects or reputation; and acquisitions and divestitures (including through post-closing reviews).
Audit Committee	Risks and exposures associated with financial matters, particularly financial reporting, tax, accounting, disclosure, internal control over financial reporting, financial policies, investment guidelines and credit and liquidity matters.
Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee	Risks and exposures relating to programs and policies relating to corporate governance and succession planning.
Compensation Committee	Risks and exposures associated with leadership assessment and executive compensation programs and arrangements, including incentive plans.

Director Qualifications; Limits on Board Service

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews with the Board on an annual basis the appropriate skills and characteristics required of Board members in the context of the then-current composition of the Board. This assessment includes, in addition to qualities of intellect, integrity and judgment, business experience and knowledge, reputation and character, issues of diversity, relevant industry and trade association knowledge and participation, accounting and financial expertise, public company experience, willingness and ability to devote the time and effort required to effectively serve on the Board and relevant legal and regulatory qualifications. The committee makes this determination in the context of an assessment of the perceived needs of the Board at that point in time. The committee evaluates all nominees for director based on these criteria, including nominees that may be recommended by stockholders.

The Board recognizes that its members benefit from service on the boards of other companies. We encourage that service but also believe it is critical that directors have the opportunity to dedicate sufficient time to their service on the Board. To that end, individuals who serve on more than six other public company boards will not normally be asked to join the Board unless the Board determines that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such individual to effectively serve on the Board.

Term Limits; Retirement Age

The Guidelines on Governance provide that, as a general matter, non-employee directors will not stand for election to a new term of service at any Annual Meeting following their 75th birthday. However, the Board may approve exceptions to this practice when it believes it is in our interest to do so. The Board has approved such exception with respect to Mr. Burck. The Board does not believe it should establish term limits for director service, instead preferring to rely upon the mandatory retirement age and the evaluation procedures described below as the primary methods of ensuring that each director continues to act in a manner consistent with the best interests of us, our stockholders and the Board. The Board believes that term limits have the disadvantage of losing the contribution of directors who have been able to develop, over a period of time, increasing insight into our operations and, therefore, provide an increasing contribution to the Board as a whole.

Board and Committee Evaluations

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines require the Board and each committee of the Board to conduct an annual self-evaluation to determine whether the Board or respective committee is functioning effectively. The reviews focus on the performance of the entire Board or the respective committee. In connection with each annual performance evaluation, the Board or committee surveys and receives comments from each director or committee member regarding an assessment of the Board's or the committee's performance. The Board also reviews the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's recommendations concerning the performance and effectiveness of the

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Board and each of its committees. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will also review the individual performance of a director as circumstances warrant.

Number of Directors; Director Vacancies

Our bylaws provide that at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose, a majority of the entire Board of Directors may increase or decrease the number of directors, provided that there cannot be less than three directors. The tenure of office of a director will not be affected by any decrease in the number of directors. Our bylaws also provide that if any or all the directors cease to be directors, any vacancy, other than vacancies that result from an increase in the number of directors or from the removal of a director, may in general be filled solely by a majority of the remaining directors, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum. Any vacancy that results from an increase in the number of directors constituting the entire Board of Directors may be filled by a majority of the entire Board of Directors. Any vacancy that results from the removal of a director may be filled either by a majority of the remaining directors or our stockholders. Any director elected to fill a vacancy will hold office until the next annual election of directors and until a successor is elected and qualified.

Stockholder Approval of Amendment of Our Charter and Bylaws and Transactions Outside the Ordinary Course of Business

Our charter, including its provisions on removal of directors, may be amended by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Our bylaws may be amended only by a majority of our directors.

Our charter provides that we may not merge with or into another entity, sell all or substantially all of our assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of our business unless the transaction or transactions are approved by the affirmative vote of the majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, except if:

the merger will merge one of our 90% or more owned subsidiaries into us without amending our charter other than in limited respects and without altering the contract rights of the stock of the subsidiary (in which case only the approval of our Board of Directors and the board of directors of the subsidiary is necessary);

we are the successor corporation in a share exchange (in which case only the approval of our Board of Directors is necessary); or

we are the survivor in the merger and the merger does not change the terms of any class or series of our outstanding stock, or otherwise amend our charter, and the number of shares of stock of each class or series outstanding immediately before the merger does not increase by more than 20% of the number of shares of each such class or series of stock that was outstanding immediately prior to effectiveness of the merger (in which case only the approval of our Board of Directors is necessary).

Guidelines on Governance and Codes of Ethics

The Board has adopted Guidelines on Governance to address significant corporate governance issues. These guidelines provide a framework for our corporate governance initiatives and cover a variety of topics, including the role of our Board, Board selection and composition, Board committees, Board operation and structure, Board orientation and evaluation, Board planning and oversight functions and stock ownership guidelines. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for overseeing and reviewing the guidelines and reporting and recommending to the Board any changes to the guidelines.

The Board of Directors has also adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which is designed to help officers, managers and employees resolve ethical issues in an increasingly complex business environment. It covers topics such as reporting unethical or illegal behavior, compliance with law, share trading, conflicts of interest, fair dealing, protection of our assets, disclosure of proprietary information, internal controls, personal community activities,

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business records, communication with external audiences and obtaining assistance to help resolve ethical issues. The Board also adopted a Code of Ethical Conduct for Senior Financial Officers, which is applicable to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller and persons performing similar functions.

You may obtain a copy of the committee charters, Guidelines on Governance, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and Code of Ethical Conduct for Senior Financial Officers on our website at www.AmericanCampus.com.

Communication with the Board of Directors

Stockholders and interested parties who wish to communicate with any member of the Board of Directors may do so in writing to the following address:

Mr. R. D. Burck

Chairman of the Board

c/o American Campus Communities, Inc.

12700 Hill Country Blvd., Suite T-200

Austin, Texas 78738

Mr. Burck will review all correspondence addressed to the Board, or any individual Board member, for any inappropriate correspondence and correspondence more suitably directed to management. Mr. Burck will summarize all correspondence not forwarded to the Board and make the correspondence available to the Board for its review at the Board's request. Mr. Burck will forward stockholder communications to the Board prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board following the receipt of the communication as appropriate.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

To further support our goal of achieving a strong link between stockholders and directors, directors are encouraged to purchase and hold shares of our common stock with a market value equal to or greater than \$150,000 within three years of their election to the Board. Once a director meets the stock ownership guidelines, periodic market declines in the value of the Company's common stock will not adversely affect any previous determination by the Board that the stock ownership guidelines had been met by the director.

Management Succession

Pursuant to our Guidelines on Governance, the Board has undertaken appropriate succession planning for our chief executive officer and other executive officers, including policies and principles for selection and performance review for the chief executive officer, as well as policies regarding succession in case of emergency or the retirement of the chief executive officer. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has reviewed our succession plans and reported on them to the Board.

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EXECUTIVE AND SENIOR OFFICERS

Our executive and senior officers are elected by the Board to serve at the pleasure of the Board or until their successors are elected and qualified. The following executive and senior officers are not directors. For information regarding William C. Bayless, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, see Board of Directors Board Composition.

Executive Officers

Greg A. Dowell has served as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since November 2007. Mr. Dowell served as Executive Vice President and Chief of Operations from May 2005 until November 2007 and served as Senior Vice President and Chief of Operations from August 2004 until May 2005. Mr. Dowell joined our predecessor entities in October 2001 as Senior Vice President Management Services. Prior to this, Mr. Dowell was employed by Century Development from 1991 to 2001 where he began his tenure as accountant and ultimately served as Senior Vice President over the operations of their 29 property student housing portfolio. Mr. Dowell received a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette and is a Certified Public Accountant. Age: 49.

Jonathan A. Graf has served as our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer since November 2007. His responsibilities include ACC's corporate finance, accounting, financial reporting, tax, capital markets, risk management, and human resources functions. Mr. Graf joined the company in 2004 shortly after its initial public offering, bringing more than 10 years of public company accounting, compliance and regulatory experience. Prior to joining ACC, he served as Vice President and Controller at Southern Union Company. From 1988 until 1994, he was an audit manager and information systems auditor at Ernst & Young LLP. Mr. Graf received a B.A. in Accounting from Texas A&M University and is a Certified Public Accountant. Age: 47.

William W. Talbot has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer since November 2012 and currently oversees our acquisitions, dispositions, off campus development and asset management functions. Mr. Talbot served as Executive Vice President-Investments from May 2011 to November 2012 and Senior Vice President-Investments from August 2005 to May 2011. Mr. Talbot joined us in August 2001 as Director of Acquisitions and has served in various capacities, including Director of Asset Management and Vice President of Investments. Prior to joining us, Mr. Talbot was an Acquisitions Analyst for Lend Lease Real Estate Investments, Inc. from 1997 until 2001, where he was involved in acquisitions on behalf of pension fund clients. Mr. Talbot received a B.A. in Economics and Spanish from Vanderbilt University. Age: 38.

James C. Hopke, Jr. has served as Executive Vice President-Project Management and Construction since November 2007. Mr. Hopke served as Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer from May 2005 to November 2007. From November 2002 to April 2005, Mr. Hopke served as Vice President, Asset Management and Advisory Services for Wachovia Securities Real Estate Capital Markets group. From February 2000 to November 2002, he served as Senior Vice President, Acquisitions of our predecessor entities. Mr. Hopke was previously a Vice President of JPI Development and Insignia Financial Group, and is a former MAI Member of The Appraisal Institute. Mr. Hopke received a B.S. in Administrative Management from Clemson University. Age: 51.

Daniel B. Perry has served as Executive Vice President-Capital Markets since May 2011. Mr. Perry served as Senior Vice President-Capital Markets from November 2007 to May 2011 and as Vice President of Investments from February 2005 to November 2007. From 2002 to 2005, Mr. Perry held positions in the investment banking division of Citigroup Global Markets, where he assisted with the successful completion of our initial public offering in 2004. From 1996 to 2001, he worked in the corporate finance divisions of BNP Paribas and NationsBank. Mr. Perry holds a B.A. in Finance and Accounting from Texas A&M University and a M.B.A. from NYU's Stern School of Business. Age: 39.

James E. Wilhelm III has served as Executive Vice President, Public-Private Transactions since January 2009 and spearheads our American Campus Equity (ACE) program. From July 2007 to January 2009, he was Senior Vice President, Public-Private Transactions. From June 2003 to July 2007, Mr. Wilhelm worked for RBC Capital Markets' public finance department where he served as the managing director of the higher education sector. Prior

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to that time, he was a managing director with Banc One Capital Markets (currently JPMorgan Capital Markets) and held positions at McDonald & Company Securities (currently KeyBanc Capital Markets) and The Ohio Company (currently Fifth Third Capital Markets). Mr. Wilhelm is a graduate of Miami University with a B.S. in Finance. Age: 49.