

Housing Standing Committee

February 14, 2019

Attendees:

Angela Storck
Johnna Eaton
Robert Bodenhamer (ad hoc member)
Coleman. Bailey (in lieu of Tiera Williams, ad hoc member)
Pamela Adams
Nya Williams (in lieu of Dree Wicker, student rep)
David Steptoe

Absent:

Charles Wimberly

Meeting called to order at 3pm

Committee reviewed the previous meeting's minutes. Robert Bodenhamer moved to approve the minutes. Elizabeth Gilmer seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Discussion Topic 1: Housing Appeals Subcommittee role and purpose.

- No suggestions for improvements or changes to the current structure.

Discussion Topic 2: Athlete Live-on Requirement

- Topic of how we can better address the live-on requirement was tabled until Charles Wimberly can participate.
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Discussion Topic 3: What issues are most affecting students in housing and what more can we do to try and assist them in being successful:

Current initiatives already in place:

- Early alert monitoring and follow up.
- Student Life Skills Programming Model (a minimum of 1 weekly program)
- Tutoring in the residence halls – began Fall 2018. Trying to gain traction again this semester.

Current initiatives we identified as the biggest obstacles to student success:

- Students don't want to ask for help or aren't motivated to ask for help.
- Can only hold the student's hands so much; if a student isn't motivated to act on what is available to them, they won't be successful.
- Feedback from Johnna Eaton: Has 500 students in classes that she completed early alerts for and only 15 students responded to those and actually tried to come speak with her or follow up with her about their progress in some way.
- We have to ask ourselves what we are accomplishing with the early alert program. How can we make it more intentional?

Suggestions for what we might be able to do to provide more help:

- Spread the message utilizing student support groups such as AAMI or Unity
- Remind them why they are here; inspiration for persistence; guest speakers or motivational campus colleagues who might have more of an impact.
- How are other schools encouraging students/ inspiring students? Let's do some outreach to see how other schools like ours are meeting the needs of housing students.
- Academic support initiatives; increased programming and even more academic support opportunities.
- Go door to door more for early alert intervention; get advisors to go door to door or come meet with residents in the residence halls.
- Retention committee- can we do more than just outreach
 - Can we mandate that students see their professor and complete an academic success plan?
 - Is there a type of hold we can put on their account that would encourage them to go see their professor?
- First year academic support courses: If you do poorly in your first term, can we require students to enroll in a 1 credit hour academic skills class. CATS part 2 only for students who meet a certain GPA or performance criteria; could be taught by staff members.
- Explore the idea of peer mentors - student employment position? Hiring students to be a peer mentor within CATS part 2 who can lead study groups or study halls in the residence halls.

Discussion Topic 4: Use of substances by residential students.

- Marijuana identified as the biggest offender; First floor in south is particularly bad.
- Discussed the possibility of creating stricter policies around alcohol use to match the Bobcat Villas ban for marijuana use. Some were in favor. Some thought this was too harsh and that we need to think about different punitive sanctions that would get the point across without immediate removal.
- Discussed theme of social justice and taking into consideration the backgrounds from which many of our students come. How that impacts their decision making process.
- Some members of the committee expressed more concerned about the image of the college in the community rather than how our policies impact students.
- Discussed how and when the policies about this are enforced and current issues:
 - Bring drug dogs after lunch or late at night when people are smoking the most.
 - Most people smoke off campus but bring the smell back to their rooms.
- Go back to the housing orientation model to provide better clarification and expectations for housing students.
 - Dr. Boehmer
 - Ms. Sherrie

- Dr. Vess
- Chief of Police
- Dining Services/Meal Plans
- Health Services

Discussion Topic 5: How can we change the community view of Housing?

- The community was not and continues to show little support for housing; attitude is that housing should not exist on a commuter campus.
- Community view is that we have two subsections of students - great students and bad students. How can we bring students to the community so that our community members can see our students and get a different/better view of who they are?
- There seems to be more concern for the community's perception than for the students' experience.
- Focus on the opportunities that housing provides for the community - provide opportunities for students who may not have opportunities.
- Suggestion: Task Force - Having a group of students who were willing to do little things; get involved in the community; pine tree festival; I got the skills workshop.
- Alumni - putting together a prepare for life program; get housing students to participate.
- Different ways to incentivize student participation - different donors who are willing to fund.
- How do we bridge the gap? How can we get the Swainsboro community to do things that our students would actually be interested in attending?
- How do we get faculty involved beyond House Calls? Will they participate in anything after 5pm?
- New bobcat discount - Added 20 new restaurants. Advertising this may get students to utilize the community even more?

We will try to meet again toward the end of term for more discussion on the progress of these ideas and recommendations. Housing staff will be evaluating them and following up as appropriate and according to resources available.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.