

Campus Culture and Student Housing

Charge: Consider the case for more student housing – will greatly improve retention and the quality of the educational experience. Better campus feel and culture will help attract more and better talented students. Additional campus jobs will help. Can the land on the north side of campus be integrated into campus life? New student center should help nurture additional activity.

Team: Hayward Guenard, Joshua Manlove, Kyle McCool, L'Meese Osborne and Sarah Reed

Current status: Research indicates that students who live on campus have higher GPA's, are more likely to persist, are more likely to be involved in campus programs, and are more open to diversity. Research also suggests that students consider recreational and exercise facilities and open space very important when selecting a college.

Action Item Recommendations:

- Assess the feasibility of developing new and improved residential facilities
- Assess the feasibility of remodeling existing recreation facilities and develop new facilities
- Develop a multicultural center in a prominent and centrally located area of the campus
- Develop new indoor and outdoor informal gathering spaces that are distributed across campus.

Implementation Strategy:

- ✓ Develop a housing master plan that includes stronger academic components, remodeling of exiting facilities, and addition of a traditional dining hall
- ✓ Ensure that the rental fees are competitive in the marketplace
- ✓ Create a vision for the development of recreation facilities
- ✓ Ensure that participation and usage fees are competitively priced
- ✓ Establish a committee to investigate the feasibility of establishing a multicultural center on campus, and identify best practices from peer institutions
- ✓ Increase the number and locations of indoor informal gathering spaces and outdoor seating