June 11, 2018

TO: Chancellor Cartwright, in care of Anna Ball, Faculty Fellow for Faculty Development

FROM: Tom Phillips, Chair Residential Life Committee

SUBJECT: 2017-2018 AY report from the Residential Life Committee

CHARGE OF THE COMMITTEE: The charge to the Residential Life Committee is to advise the vice chancellor for Student Affairs on the enhancement and promotion of student learning through communities such as Freshman Interest Groups, Residential Colleges and other learning communities. It also serves to advise the vice chancellor on programs, services and policies regarding the residence halls and other University-recognized residences.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Faculty representatives
- Robin J. Bowman Assistant Teaching Professor SHP/Health Sciences
- Deborah Gerhart Assistant Teaching Professor SHP/Health Sciences
- Jere L Gilles Associate Professor Rural Sociology
- Catherine Gleason Assistant Teaching Professor Theatre
- Soren Larsen Associate Professor Geography
- Jeffrey Litt Assistant Professor Surgery
- Thomas Phillips Professor Biological Sciences
- Mihail Popescu Associate Professor Health Management & Informatics

MSA representatives
- Matt Bourke Student Secondary Education
- Kyle Lahucik Student Journalism
- Mary Recca Student Residential Life
- Sterling Waldman Student Interdisciplinary

GPC representative
- Chris Lee Graduate Student Medicine

Ex Officio
- Julaine Kiehn Director Campus Dining Services
- Jeff Zeilenga Dean of Students

The committee met three times during the academic year and minutes are appended below. Jeff Zeilenga and Julaine Kiehn kept the committee up to date on the challenges facing the residential halls due to the reduced size of the freshman class and the many proactive changes being undertaken to increase occupancy. The faculty and student members of the committee gave feedback to Zeilenga’s and Kiehn’s reports but no formal recommendations were proposed or voted on.
Minutes from the 10-27-17 meeting

Attending:
Marvin Feldman
Cat Gleason
Soren Larsen
Tom Phillips (Chair)
Mihail Popescu
Matt Bourke
Kyle LaHucik
Julaine Kiehn
Jeff Zeilenga

Update from Jeff Zeilenga concerning events in the last 6 months

- Jeff started out by asking members to be his ears on the street. If we hear something that we think he should know, please drop him or Julaine a note.
- Formerly Frankie Minor (director of Res Life) and Diane (director of Rec Center) used to report to him. Reorganization and consolidation has eliminated those director positions and some responsibilities have been re-arranged.
- 80% of the Res Life (and Student Union) staff that used to be responsible for things like housekeeping and maintenance have been moved to Campus Facilities in effort to centralize things.
- Tyler Page now responsible for residential academic program issues
- Kristen Temple now in charge of risk management, off campus housing, and the facilities component.
- Goal is to move away from a “rules driven culture” to building relationships with the young adults who live in the res halls. Formerly there were 70 pages of rules – these are currently undergoing review by staff.
- Office of Student Conduct replaced by Office of Student Accountability and Support
- Ultimately it will be up to Chancellor & President to decide whether to enforce rule requiring all freshmen to live in res halls.

Effort to increase return of Sophomore & Juniors ongoing

- Free parking for first 200, outreach with tables/advertising
- Sophomore & Juniors would be cohoused (away from freshmen)
- Optional food plans that allow more 24/7 kitchen access will be offered.
- Students have submitted a proposal to allow 21+ year olds to have alcohol in their res hall rooms – Jeff hasn’t reviewed the proposal yet but would return to the committee to allow our input before any decisions made.
- A “365 residence” with year round rooms for students will be offered.
- Sober Housing unit planned under Frankie never happened. Low interest but unclear if advertising/outreach was done. Future plans unclear but there was some committee interest in pursuing this.
FIGS program

- Previously, some students signed up for FIGs simply to get res hall location choice. New plan will allow students to rank order res hall over FIG selection or vice versa. Housing preference will be allowed.
- Thinking about reducing number of FIGs from about 78 currently to 48.
- A&S is questioning why they still have historical role of paying for half 350-400K cost of campus-wide FIG program.

Rentals for football weekend

- Not losing money.
- Comment from committee member that longer-term rentals for visiting faculty/staff could have some amenities like pictures on the hall and a TV to make the place seem more like a hotel than a low security prison.

Future meetings

- After discussion we decided we should meet every month or at least two months. Tom promised to send out a doodle for a meeting in early December.
- Goal is for committee to serve in a true advisory fashion rather than simply as a listening board for reports about things in progress.

Residential Life Committee – Minutes from 12/6/17 meeting

Attendance
Jeff Galen
Catherine Gleason
Matt Bourke
Sterling Waldman
Tyler Page
Julaine Kiehn
Jeff Zeilenga
Tom Phillips

Tyler talked about how the policies and procedures manual had been streamlined down to 8 pages. He promised to share a copy with the committee (Note: this was subsequently electronically shared with the committee)

ROAR – the old software to get housing assignment – has been abandoned.
New system for housing preference let students list (i) roommate preference, (ii) FIG preference, learning community preference, (iv) neighborhood preference (where on campus – SW Village, Truman Center, College Heights, Mark Twain Honors), and (v) ADA or accommodation needs.

FIG program is currently being reviewed by multiple units – Funding model will change with A&S pulling out of their support.

Jeff discussed continuing fiscal challenges and strategies being employed to reduce this debt.
Res Life staff working with Tour team to showcase rooms in res halls and this program may be expanded.

Res Life had a strong presence at the Housing Fair.

Policy change means that students can stay in res halls over summer even without taking classes.

**Residential Life Committee – Minutes from 12/6/17 meeting**

Unfortunately the attendance roster from this meeting have been misplaced but attendance was sparse and discussion limited. Jeff Zeilenga had an unanticipated conflict and was unable to attend so after a short discussion about recent efforts to attract soph/junior/senior students (from Matt Bourke) and an update on the Keeling & Associates workgroup on residential life (by Tom Phillips), we adjourned.