

Pounds Lounge

November 11th

12pm – 1pm

Meeting Attendees:

Off-Campus: Taylor Fogle, Alyssa Richardson, Ashely Schoenhofer, Michelle VanGeislen, Montana Rickey

On-Campus: Brandi Young, Abby Warnke, Jacob Jimmerson

Notes: Maggi Collet and Rachel Baker

- **What did you like about housing during your freshmen year?**
 - Cole
 - Having one other roommate + private bathroom
 - Can't control air
 - Wouldn't stay in Cole because no kitchen
 - Personal kitchen would be better but community kitchen would be good if it was maintained
 - Programming
 - They didn't remember specific programs, but did benefit from them
 - Good on washers and dryers
 - Most attendees would not have wanted to stay in Cole longer because there was no kitchen
 - Wallingford
 - Can control air
 - Kitchen always being used and didn't work when it wasn't occupied
 - Good on washers and dryers
 - Good atmosphere
 - Doors always open
 - RA's are a plus – checking in
- **What did you like about your housing during your sophomore year?**
 - Reid
 - Liked having living room area to hang out in
 - Good space
 - Not having a meal plan would be a motivator to keep living in Reid
 - If given the choice, would have moved straight to Warren and skipped Reid (coming from off campus person)
 - Sharing a bathroom with four people is good
 - *Reid is the best place to live on campus*
 - Sutton
 - It was ok – smaller than expected
 - Financial choice
 - In general, they felt connected to RAs, campus activities, etc.
 - Students move to Warren to not have a meal plan and a kitchen
 - Still benefited from having the RAs around in Reid and Sutton
 - Enjoyed the building's activities

- **If you live off campus and had a good experience on campus, what made you leave?**
 - It felt like the next step – go from no independence from Cole, to Reid with a little independence, off campus was just the next step. Didn't even consider living on campus after Reid
 - \$400 more to move off campus and have your own room – having own room was a big deal
 - Didn't want single room on campus because it's expensive
 - Pets would be a plus on campus
 - Didn't want to continue living with the same roommates and found a house all at the same time – just fell together and the house is only one block away
 - Financial issues + could have pets
 - Own room, kitchen, pet, independence of being off campus (candles, etc.), freedom

- **For all of you, what would keep you on campus?**
 - Once you live off campus, it's difficult to come back – feels like backtracking
 - Having pets on campus
 - Dorm that's not insanely expensive but is a private room would be helpful
 - Living in a house provides private room but with community space for people to come together and hang out
 - OSU's centennial dorms – two separate rooms and shared bathroom that opens into communal kitchen and living space
 - A situation like Reid where there are 4 or 5 private bedrooms that connect into shared living room
 - Size of bedroom is not as important as privacy – would rather have small space to themselves than large shared bedroom
 - Size of bed can be somewhat important but not huge deciding factor
 - Having a house set up on campus

- **What type of theme housing would students be interested in? (ex. Outdoor adventure, community service)**
 - Students didn't think that would go over well because people are so involved here already
 - Activities would probably be held on Sundays and that's most people's only day off
 - Freedom would be a bigger motivation
 - Their room is their place to get away from sports, activities, etc. so being in close proximity to all of them would be overkill
 - Asking residents to plan something on top of their activities would be too much

- **Pretend there's a house with 10-15 bedrooms that has a theme – would students buy into that?**
 - Cool idea
 - Would want students to come up with the theme
 - Students would buy into it more if they could come up with the idea on their own
 - Start programming at the beginning of the year to keep people involved
 - Would be cool to do something totally unrelated with people they never see
 - They are concerned about not having the roommates that they want

- They would not want to pay extra for it
 - The idea is interesting for a building like Reid for the whole building to do something at the end of the year (like a project); it would not work for a pod within Reid.
 - It is hard to get people to do stuff

- **What type of co-curricular housing could we offer that would bridge a gap between academics and housing? If your academic department offered one of these and offered a class to go along with it, what would you want it to cover/offer? Which academic departments should we partner with?**
 - No interest in pairing it with academic world
 - Which faculty would be cool to pair with?
 - Bob Gallup
 - Tammy McEwen
 - Rick Cowlshaw
 - Natural science

- **What amenities do students look for with their on campus housing accommodations? / What could we do better?**
 - Wi-Fi
 - Laundry
 - Private bedrooms (size does not matter)
 - Living spaces – provides a space to watch TV and hang out outside your room
 - Shared bathrooms are okay (maximum of 4 people)
 - Carpeting in the rooms (not tile floors)
 - Kitchens in rooms (like Warren and Honor)
 - Controlling the air and heating in the rooms
 - More communal feeling (for 4-6 people)
 - Dishwashers in apartments with kitchens
 - **How many is too many to share a bathroom?**
 - 4 is the maximum. . . 2 is the best (depending on size)
 - **How many people can share a kitchen?**
 - 4 is the maximum
 - **How many people per living room?**
 - Depends on the space
 - Reid is a good size for 4 people
 - The desk area is not used much because it's hard to get stuff done when people are out there talking

- **Is there a housing option that Southwestern needs more of or lacks?**
 - **Pretend we have money to build a new building – what do we build?**
 - Like Reid but want their own bedroom.
 - 2-4 people with the same setup as Reid but with kitchen
 - With no meal plan
 - **Cottage on Campus**
 - A house that chooses their own theme and is not tied to a class
 - Maximum of 8 people living together to share one or two living areas

- **Final Thoughts and Comments**

- Reid
 - Can control air is positive
 - Not enough washers
 - Living room spaces is a good size
- Off Campus
 - Feel like they miss things
 - Talk to people that live on campus to keep connected
- Residence Halls that allow would persuade people to live on campus
- Cole showers
 - Horrible pressure
 - Cannot control the heat or cold air
- Location of buildings
 - Wallingford is prime because it's central
 - Honor is good if you have class in Mossman
 - No interest in living in Shriwise
 - Honors and Shriwise are also conveniently located
 - Doesn't come to Student Center much because she doesn't have a meal plan
 - New residence hall or residential area would be good in grassy knoll beside Sutton
- Better Parking is needed on campus

Thoughts from Danie

- If we are still interested in starting a more involved co-curricular residential program, we should facilitate another focus group with the students who are projected to live in that community (ex: If we want a business related community, we need to speak with sophomores and current freshmen who are in that major or are involved in those classes and organizations).
- Living Learning Communities would work best in a building like Reid.
- I think students would respond well to having a small house on campus for 8 people.
 - Two living rooms, 8 private bedrooms, 2-4 bathrooms to share, 1 or 2 small kitchens and a laundry room
 - Choose their own theme
 - The must show some involvement on campus as a house
- Overall, private bedrooms are more of a draw than private bathrooms