

# Angelo State University

## Residential Campus Task Force

### Housing Format Discussion Group

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#### *Definition and Parameters*

This discussion group is addressing recommendations for housing formats – defined here as living space layouts and residence services - for current and future students at Angelo State University that are considered to be the most conducive to attracting students to ASU, meeting a wide variety of residential requirements, and providing services and amenities that promote perseverance to graduation.

In discussing these issues, we invited Fred Dietz, Executive Director of Enrollment Management, and A.J. Fawver of the City of San Angelo Planning Department to give us their views of the projected growth of the student body, the available housing options within the city, and trends related to residential growth for ASU.

#### *Short Literature Review*

1. Association of College and University Housing Officers-International 21 Century Project  
[www.21stcenturyproject.com/](http://www.21stcenturyproject.com/)

Basic premise is that a university residential community should be a place students can identify as a home-type living space with amenities that complement the learning mission of the university, such as Internet access and network connectivity. Flexibility and sustainability are the keys to meeting the students' needs and keeping them involved in the campus community. A variety of options and concerns are addressed in this document.

2. ASU Enrollment Management plan (tentative) – according to discussions with former Director of Enrollment Management Fred Dietz, a forthcoming document outlining the ASU recruitment and retention strategy will show that an annual growth of approximately 4% will be needed to meet University growth goals.

#### *Assumptions and Benchmarks*

1. Higher enrollment requirements will not yield immediate increases in number of students enrolling each semester.
2. Current housing inventory adequately covers the needs of the incoming freshmen class.
3. To reach the University's enrollment goals, an average growth of 4% annually is needed. Most of that growth is projected to be accomplished through improved retention of current students.
4. Projected growth attributable to distance education will not have ramifications for housing availability.
5. Upperclassmen and graduate students are more likely to remain living on campus or move to campus if a variety of individual living options are available.
  - a. Apartment-style, efficiency apartments are attractive to many traditional aged junior, senior and graduate students wanting "their own space"

- b. Price sensitivity is important since most upperclassmen seem to be shouldering a larger portion of their costs of attending college than they did as freshmen or sophomores
  - c. Proximity to campus is important to achieving the residential campus feel, and that proximity is important to the individual student if the price and living situation is right
- 6. The city and university need to work together to make San Angelo more appealing to students through recreational opportunities.
- 7. Family-oriented residence space is not cost-effective because there is usually only one fee-paying member of that household. Student-family subsidies might be a consideration.
- 8. Available city housing inventory is currently sufficient enough to provide a variety of options for new faculty and staff.

## *Recommendations*

1. Build apartments on campus for upperclassmen
  - a. Justification – meeting housing needs for upperclassmen should help keep more of our juniors and seniors – leaders because of their longevity with the university – on campus and therefore close at-hand to take the opportunity to participate in campus life, also setting an example for underclassmen
  - b. Potential costs – 200 bed apartment-style residence hall – approximately \$15 million
2. Work with Greek social organizations to build and finance lodges with options to add residential space later
  - a. Justification – In order for Greek Life to do its part in helping grow the university, it is felt that a place “to call their own” would be both a practical solution to meeting spaces and storage for the social Greek organizations and a recruiting point for both the organizations themselves and the university.
  - b. Potential costs
    - i. Development of property – unknown
    - ii. Approximate lodge construction costs – 3000 sq. ft. - \$200/sq ft
    - iii. Ongoing maintenance costs would also have to be factored in
3. Work with city to develop housing options downtown, Ft. Concho area
  - a. Justification – This recommendation supports the town & gown relationship while also providing an alternative housing option for special interest groups within the student body
  - b. Potential costs – outside the scope of this group
  - c. Development of amenities conducive to students increases the appeal of the community. Needs of non-traditional students as well as student-family situations need to be addressed. Recreational areas and family-related businesses should be designed and cultivated. Possible areas of development include child care options, river walk development, etc.
4. Create scholarships with preference to resident students
  - a. Justification – With appropriate options available, this would provide financial incentive to live in the residence halls, hopefully increasing the opportunity to participate in the campus community
  - b. Potential costs – dependent upon the number of students the university desired to affect
5. Develop increased opportunities/plans for special interest housing on a graduated scale; i.e., honors, academic majors, ROTC, FYE housing, special interest – dependent on demand

- a. Justification
    - i. Again, flexible housing spaces create more desirable options for students to select.
    - ii. As the university identifies programs that it wants to target, flexible contingency plans can contribute to program success.
    - iii. Although academic-themed areas don't seem to be a priority at this point, with a contingency plan in place they could be implemented as the need presented itself.
    - iv. The Greek and Honors programs might be most viable groups for these options at this time.
    - v. The university would not want to overbuild relative to its rate of student growth
  - b. Potential costs – dependent upon program needs, current hall configurations. Cost projection outside the scope of this group.
6. Create a senior experience
- a. Justification – Creating an atmosphere of “what you have to look forward to” should encourage students to persist to graduation. An integrated experience for seniors – tying academics into community responsibility – would allow opportunities for collaboration between faculty, staff and students.
  - b. Potential costs – course/project development, implementation; support costs; possible additional support staff – recommend a coordinating committee be created to develop program and associated costs.

### *Discussion Sub-Group Members*

Rick Greig	Director for Student Involvement
Connie Frazier	Director of Residential Programs
Nolen Mears	Executive Director of Student Life
Dillon Koen	Student Member, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Greek Council
Ashley Bruner	Student Member, Delta Zeta Sorority, Greek Council