STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 18, 2013
1:45 - 2:30 p.m.
Board Room, The Rotunda

Committee Members:
Allison Cryor DiNardo, Chair
Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Vice Chair
A. Macdonald Caputo
Hunter E. Craig
Bobbie G. Kilberg
George Keith Martin
Timothy B. Robertson
Linwood H. Rose
Hillary A. Hurd
Helen E. Dragas, Ex-officio
Allison S. Linney, Consulting Member
Dennis R. Proffitt, Faculty
Consulting Member

AGENDA

- REPORT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICER (Ms. Lampkin)  1
  A. Vice President's Remarks - Student Affairs
  B. Enhancing the Student Experience Through Residential Living (Ms. Lampkin to introduce Ms. Gay Perez; Ms. Perez to report)  2
BOARD MEETING: April 18, 2013

COMMITTEE: Student Affairs and Athletics

AGENDA ITEM: A. Vice President’s Remarks – Student Affairs

ACTION REQUIRED: None

BACKGROUND: At each meeting, the Vice President updates the Board on current issues and events that affect operations of the Division of Student Affairs.

DISCUSSION: The Vice President will provide an update on student life issues as we near the end of the semester.
BACKGROUND:  The residential experience at the University of Virginia is the cornerstone of the student experience. With over two million square feet of residential building space housing over 6,500 on-Grounds residential students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty, staff, and conference guests, Housing and Residential Life (HRL) supports the academic, cultural, and social goals of the University. Specific living and learning programs include language immersion houses, three residential colleges, a transfer student focused community, and a comprehensive first-year experience. Residential environments encompass a diverse array of building styles including traditional corridor-style residence halls, suite-style residence halls, apartment complexes, townhouses, and single family homes. HRL has an annual operating budget of $38 million.

Following the 2011 merging of day-to-day operations of the Housing Division and the Office of Residence Life, the current organization is divided into five unit areas: Accommodations (includes family, graduate, and off-Grounds housing), Business & Facility Services (includes finance and human resources), Residence Life, Conference Services, and Information Technology. Housing and Residence Life reports jointly to the Vice President for Management and Budget and the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer.

Gay Perez has served as the Associate Dean of Students/Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life since December 2011. She is responsible for providing overall leadership and programmatic direction for the department. Prior to returning to the University of Virginia, Ms. Perez served in housing and residence life positions at the University of Miami, Wake Forest University, North Carolina State University, and most recently, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her B.A. in Psychology from the University, as well as a
master's of education in Administration and Supervision from the Curry School of Education.

DISCUSSION: In Fall 2012, the University contracted with an outside consultant, Brailsford and Dunleavy (B&D), to conduct a comprehensive study of student housing, both on-Grounds and off-Grounds markets. Coordinated by the Office of the Architect and in conjunction with Housing and Residence Life, B&D conducted multiple focus groups in their development of the comprehensive survey instrument, administered the on-line assessment instrument, collected and sorted the data, applied predictive analysis, and shared the preliminary results with the study team. Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director Gay Perez will share the results found to date. The presentation will include an overview of the assessment tool, results, existing information about efforts to meet student demand while assisting students in their academic and career pursuits, and an opportunity to enhance student learning through the residential experience. Ms. Perez will also provide a comparative analysis across peer institutions.

While the goal of on-Grounds housing has always been to provide an environment where students can make connections throughout the institution, build lasting relationships, provide spaces conducive to group and individual study, and create communities focused on self-governance, leadership opportunities, and choices, the approach to achieving that goal is constantly evolving. Through this study, our undergraduate and graduate students have provided the answers to the following questions:

- Is there an unmet demand for on-Grounds housing?
- What are students looking for in their living space (type, amenities, etc.)?
- What are the deciding factors on where students live after their first year?

Based on 2,353 survey responses, 88% of our undergraduate and graduate students report high satisfaction levels with current living situations. The two most important factors in undergraduate students' decisions on where to live after their first year are proximity to Central Grounds and ability to choose their roommates. For our graduate students, apartments with a kitchen and total cost of rent & utilities are the two most prevalent factors in their decision-making.
According to B&D, the University of Virginia is in a unique position relative to peer institutions because a significant majority of students who completed the survey indicated that if the institution built what they wanted and located it within a 15-minute walk to Central Grounds, students would most likely choose to remain in on-Grounds housing. The chart below illustrates the percentage of students who would reside on-Grounds based on the aforementioned parameters. Given the current price filter of $500 per month applied in the demand analysis, the second-year capture rate remains the same, while the capture rate increased significantly for third- and fourth-year students. Based on the data, graduate students indicate a strong demand for on-Grounds housing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current UVa Capture Rate Spring '13</th>
<th>UVa w/Unmet Demand Potential</th>
<th>National Benchmark Comparison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-Year</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second-Year</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-Year</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth-Year</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The University of Virginia prides itself on providing a first-year experience that is one of the best in the nation. Based on the recent data, our students concur. The clustering of our first-year spaces in the Alderman Road and McCormick Road areas plays an integral part in the student experience. Our student Resident Staff model, based on peer support, small student-to-staff ratios, and self-governance, serves as a critical foundation that promotes interaction among new students as they transition into an academically rigorous institution.

We believe our upper class students, especially second-years, will continue to thrive in on-Grounds housing as long as we provide:

- Choice in the type of residential accommodations;
- Ability to select with whom they will share their living space; and
- Interactive community space to learn from their peers outside the classroom.
In line with the University’s strategic planning effort, our residential upper class programmatic objectives focus on providing both advanced academic and career advising in the communities. Keeping upper class students engaged on-Grounds as they persist toward Final Exercises is a priority of a student’s contiguous residential experience.