

Comparison of Campus Life Task Force Recommendations and Preliminary Trustee Task Force Recommendations

The Trustee Task Force on Residential Commons is seriously considering a substantially reworked version of the Campus Life Task Force report to the Board of Trustees. Of the prospective changes summarized below, two are especially noteworthy. One is the proposal for an all-freshman commons. The Trustee Task Force in undertaking an assessment of the original five-commons proposal has determined that the cost is prohibitive. The revised recommendations are appropriate to our budgetary capabilities at this time. Moreover, the freshman commons idea has much to recommend it in terms of developing class identity and a sense of community. Finally, the movement in the sophomore year into 3-year residential commons and Greek houses should offer a positive co-curricular experience, energizing students at a point where we have major retention problems. The second change is the provision for most sophomore members of Greek organizations to live in Greek houses. The Trustee Task Force has deemed this essential to the ongoing vitality of these organizations. At the same time, the Task Force continues to endorse the goal of attracting more upperclassmen, including members of Greek organizations, back to campus residences.

Campus Life Task Force Recommendations March 2001

1. All students would have a four-year affiliation with one of five residential commons. They would be placed in their commons when they arrive on campus as freshmen or transfer students.

2. Each commons would have an array of living arrangements including singles, doubles, suites and apartments.

3. Juniors and seniors would be eligible for additional living options such as Greek houses and off-campus apartments.

Preliminary Trustee Task Force Recommendations - August 2001

1. First year students would reside together in a single commons. Upperclassmen would be present in the form of a specially trained group of preceptors (a thorough revision of the current resident assistant position). A majority of sophomores, juniors and seniors would reside in one of three residential commons, having most of the features present in the original residential commons proposal. The site for the freshman commons would likely be the current complex of residencies involving Baxter, Belknap and Mathews halls. Moreover, this would entail movement of the current fraternities into other housing on campus, specifically Lee, York, WISH, Shepard and a fifth to be built.

2. The freshman residential commons would largely be composed of doubles and a few singles. The three commons for sophomores through seniors would be composed of singles, suites and apartments.

3. Although all first-year and second-year students would continue to reside on-campus, most students affiliating with Greek houses at the end of their freshman year could move in to those houses as sophomores. Off-campus living would remain an option for juniors and seniors.

Campus Life Task Force Recommendations March 2001

Preliminary Trustee Task Force Recommendations - August 2001

4. Each commons would have a high degree of self-governance and collective rule adjudication.

5. All commons will feature a substantial faculty presence, including an in-residence faculty mentor and a selected group of faculty associates or fellows.

6. Each residential commons would serve as the local administrative, social and cultural center for its students.

7. The "residential neighborhoods" of the campus would be complemented by a "downtown," consisting of buildings with all-campus clientele, clustered in the center of campus (Goudy Commons, Hatfield Library, etc.). Eventually, Willamette should build a student center as part of this downtown complex.

Residential Commons Proposal Chronology

September 1999	Campus Life Task Force established Membership includes: 5 students, 5 administrators, 4 faculty
October 1999-April 2000	Weekly meetings of the Task Force
October 1999	Dinner with Trustees
November-December 1999	Focus group research with students (250 students consulted)
January-February 2000	Four task force teams visit campuses with some variant of residential commons systems: UC Santa Cruz, Rice University, Middlebury College, Bowdoin College, USC, UC San Diego, Whittier College
February-March 2000	Presentation of initial ideas on residential commons to panels (averaging 10 participants each) of students (5), faculty (5), staff (2) and alumni (5). Ongoing reports to Board of Trustees and Trustee Campus Life Committee
April 2000	Web-based student satisfaction survey of undergraduates conducted by Maguire Associates -- 918 respondents
September-December 2000	Additional consultations with trustees, alumni, faculty and students and formulation of the report.
January 2001	Report to President Pelton
February 2001	White Paper (preliminary report of Campus Life Task Force recommendations to the Trustees)

Board of Trustees creates Trustee Task Force on Residential Commons to receive and evaluate the final report of the Campus Life Task Force

March 2001

Final report of Campus Life Task Force referred by President Pelton to Trustee Committee, CLA faculty and students of the CLA

Presentations of recommendations to the following bodies in March: Campus Facilities Committee, Classified Staff lunch, Administrative Forum, Trustees Task Force, Collegian editors,

Convocation, Bistro meeting with President Pelton. Also in March: web posting of Report and notification of CLA faculty, staff, students; one-page executive summary to all CLA faculty, staff, students; press release to Statesman-Journal.

April 2001

Informational meetings with small CLA faculty groups and student group leaders; poster sessions in the UC and Goudy; faculty meeting, academic council, special meeting with first-year faculty.

April-August 2001

Meetings of Trustee Committee on Residential Commons