

Report of the Angelo State University Residential Campus Task Force: Academic Subcommittee

Angelo State University's efforts to become a Residential Campus can greatly affect every aspect of campus life for students, faculty, and staff. The Academic Subcommittee of the Residential Campus Task Force investigated the ramifications of becoming a Residential College on the academic mission of ASU. The recommendations listed below resulted from ideas generated by the subcommittee, discussions with students, and from the analysis of pertinent reports.

Literature Review:

1. *Strategic Programs for Innovations in Undergraduate Physics: Project Report*; by the American Association of Physics Teachers.
2. *Executive Summary*; The Mathematical Association of America's Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics.
3. *Models That Work: Case Studies in Effective Undergraduate Mathematics Programs*; Notices of the American Mathematical Society; Vol 43; No 11.

Recommendations:

1. Develop a strong sense of belonging to a community of scholars:
Justification: Studies were commissioned to analyze those departments that are growing, attract superior students, and successfully place their students in grad schools or industry. Their results show that these departments deliberately cultivate a sense of community.
 - a. Emphasize and encourage active mentoring by faculty.
Justification: In Aristotelian fashion, faculty exemplify professionalism and scholarship.
 - b. Increase student participation in undergraduate research (e.g. REU's, summer internships).
Justification: Develops team work and research skills. Beneficial on resume.
 - c. Increase student participation in conferences.
Justification: Develops presentation and communication skills. Beneficial on resume.
 - d. Start an undergraduate research journal.
Justification: Provides a forum for undergrads to publish their research and to become informed about the research of their peers both at ASU and elsewhere.
 - e. Encourage active involvement of faculty in student organizations.
Justification: Opportunity to build mentoring relationships.
 - f. Each department develops a seminar course
Justification: Students learn to develop, organize, and present scholarly work.

- g. Convert to a laptop campus - a laptop is part of tuition or fees.
Justification: Courses can freely incorporate more technology when applicable.
 - h. Provide a student commons room or lounge in each department and provide money for them to furnish and decorate the area to their liking.
Justification: Provides an area where they may study, interact, socialize, and build relationships, and thus encourages them to stay on campus where they can interact with faculty. It also, re-enforces their sense of belonging to the department.
2. Build a general sense of community:
Justification: Studies were commissioned to analyze those departments that are growing, attract superior students, and successfully place their students in grad schools or industry. Their results show that these departments deliberately cultivate a sense of community.
- a. Increase the number of on-campus cultural events.
 - b. Encourage and support opportunities for informal social interaction between faculty and students.
 - c. Develop community outreach/continuing education programs.
 - d. Department keep in contact with alumni; for example, via a news letter.
3. Facilitate Academic Achievement:
Justification: Increases a student's opportunities to achieve their goals (e.g. employment, attend grad school).
- a. Increase preparedness of incoming students:
 - i. Increase entrance standards.
 - ii. Increase course prerequisites.
 - b. Increase Performance of ASU students
 - i. Expand and institutionalize tutoring:
 - 1. Provide morning, afternoon, or evening tutoring programs possibly staffed by professors and initially supported by a TRIO grant.
 - 2. Provide Supplemental Instruction (SI) for every freshman and sophomore class.
 - ii. Expand remedial courses by developing an ASU community college or partnering with a community college to remediate.
 - c. Provide evening classes.
Justification: To accommodate those students that work during the day (e.g. nontraditional students). Also provides an alternative for students in general.
 - d. Coordinate course schedules between departments:
Justification: Avoid scheduling infrequently offered, required courses at the same time.
 - e. Develop a co-op program (working at participating companies and attending school in alternating semesters).
Justification: Provides students with job experience and helps them pay for school. Increases a students employment opportunities.

4. Expand Student Affairs into a student affairs division:
Justification: Many students entering or in college have severe social and personal problems. Expanding Student Affairs provides the resources to help students address these issues, which in turn helps them to succeed at ASU.
 - a. Increase the number of on campus, licensed counselors available to students.
 - b. Provide counselors to help nontraditional, re-entry, and transfer students to adapt to the ASU culture.
 - c. Greatly increase career counseling and information, and participation by industries in the ASU job fair.

5. Expand faculty development and support:
 - a. Encourage research and support it through release time.
 - b. Encourage and support paid sabbaticals.
 - c. Provide more money for faculty to attend conferences.*Justification: Maintains the research skills of the faculty. Provides an avenue for faculty to develop new and existing research projects. Helps faculty to stay current in their field.*