

Residential Campus Task Force Campus Services Subcommittee¹ Report 27 April 2009

Over the last two months, the members of the Campus Services Subcommittee of the Residential Campus Task Force met with individuals and as a group. They also researched and discussed the issue assigned to the group with other colleagues. Basically the Subcommittee members felt the primary need for campus services to be more of a space and facilities issue rather than a need for new and/or improved programs and services.

In a review of the literature (see bibliography at the end of the report), the Subcommittee found clear evidence that services play a crucial role in recruiting, retention, and student success. In fact just like services, evidence exists that facilities (quality and quantity) also contribute to enrollment and retention decisions, as well as student success.

In the last several years, the ASU campus has seen a significant increase in services to its students. The list that follows is not exhaustive, but provides several key highlights of these developments.

Fitness: Planning is under way for a new recreation facility addition to the CHP Building. Students actually voted an increase in their fees to pay for the new facility. There have been numerous programs offered to improve student health and nutrition.

Multicultural Affairs: Reflecting the ever changing make up of the student body, a new office (Multicultural Center) is now on campus to assist students from varied backgrounds and cultures with adjustment to college life and classroom success. Unfortunately, office space is very limited and awaits transfer to the proposed “One-Stop Center.” The University continues its efforts to reach HSI status. Although not exclusive to this office, the University has several programs to help with “first-generation” students and to recruit and retain students from groups that are underrepresented in academe.

International Student Services: Again the University was proactive by establishing a new office that provides assistance to international students enrolling at ASU, as well as students wishing to study abroad. This includes exchange programs, host family programs, campus passport office, increased scholarships to support study abroad opportunities, etc.

ADA Compliance: The Student Life Office continuously monitors classroom and campus conditions to insure accommodations are available for any student needing assistance.

First-Year Experience/USTD Courses: After extensive research, the University adapted its successful USTD courses into a First-Year Experience program to provide a better chance to meet the needs of students trying to adapt to the college environment and help insure classroom success, achievement, retention, and ultimately graduation rates.

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Rec Sports: The number of students participating in intramural competitions is phenomenal. In many sport seasons, student teams are competing past midnight several nights a week because of a lack of adequate number of fields/courts.

Student Involvement: There are now over 100 recognized student organizations on campus. The staff for the Office of Student Involvement has had virtually no growth, and there is inadequate campus space for offices, workrooms, and meetings for the student organizations.

Parking: The proverbial problem on all college and university campuses is student parking. Despite the perception, there is adequate parking on the ASU campus. That parking, however, is not necessarily where students want it to be. After an extensive consultant's study and a series of proposals and meetings, a revised parking scheme is ready for implementation for the 2009 Fall Semester.

Campus Renovations and Construction: The University has finished and is planning several new projects to improve facilities and services. Completed projects include Centennial Village resident hall, an energy management system, upgrades to the multipurpose sports complex, construction of campus gathering areas, installing new signage, and providing increased student dining and eating areas in the University Center. New projects include the renovation of the Hardeman Building into a "One-Stop" student services center, renovation of the Porter Henderson Library and creation of a Learning Commons on the First Floor, the aforementioned Rec Center addition to the CHP Building, and a new residence hall project (Plaza Verde).

As mentioned in the opening paragraphs of this report, the recurring theme in all of the accomplishments listed above is not a need for new or improved services, but a lack of adequate and quality spaces and facilities to properly house and support these services. This Subcommittee realizes there is another group looking at facility needs. The Campus Services Subcommittee simply wants to reinforce the need for developing more and better facilities on campus.

The Campus Services Subcommittee would also like to emphasize that the campus has outgrown the current University Center. Although this facility was enlarged and modernized less than a decade ago, it no longer has sufficient meeting, conference, and recreational space available. The campus needs to consider the prospect for either enlarging the present facility or building a separate conference center elsewhere on campus. A separate conference center would allow the present University Center to become a true Student Center.

As outlined above, the real recommendation from the Campus Services Subcommittee centers on the need for improving and adding space for the services and initiatives planned and/or implemented over the last few years.

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² A sample of references available and/or consulted.