

# Angelo State University

## Residential Campus Task Force

### Student Development & Involvement Discussion Sub-group

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The campus is not the focus for everything our students do, but it is the base from which they operate. For the most part, a residential campus is not something you “do”. When you attempt to do something, you know when you have accomplished it; when you are done. However, a residential campus is an inclusive approach that guides the delivery of education and services. For true success, you are never really done.

As a committee, we came to the realization early on that student development and involvement played a key role in the creation of a residential campus. Students spend more time outside of the classroom than they do in it. Additionally, involvement offers students the opportunity to connect with peers and university faculty and staff members. Student involvement theory holds that students who invest energy in working, living and playing on campus are more likely to:

- \*receive better grades
- \*be successful in their academic program
- \*stay in school and graduate timely
- \*consider their college experience a positive one
- \*be marketable when job searching and applying to grad school
- \*develop valuable leadership and interpersonal skills
- \*become active alumni

It was the consensus of our group that it was important to focus on both awareness and an understanding that student involvement in cocurricular and extracurricular activities is a base for the development of a residential campus and an important component of an enriching educational experience. However, this requires “buy in” from every facet of the ASU community.

Through our discussions, we targeted one primary avenue that would tie student development and involvement into the task of creating a residential campus. Identify ways to increase both campus awareness and involvement in cocurricular and extracurricular activities. This doesn’t mean these are all new ideas. Several of these are currently in place and we are doing them well. By identifying them, we are simply stating these are factors that can enhance and strengthen our existing programs and provide a solid foundation for the development of new programs.

Ways in which campus awareness and involvement in cocurricular and extracurricular activities can be increased are as follows:

1. Create more meeting spaces for student organizations
  - a. Many of the former meeting sites have been converted to offices or dining facilities
2. Create weekend access to facilities on campus for meetings
  - a. Hours that meetings rooms can be accessed often do not reflect student organization needs
  - b. Create an inventory of current on-campus facilities (buildings/rooms) that students can access during evenings and weekends
3. Identify methods of communicating the developmental significance of cocurricular and extracurricular involvement to faculty, administration and staff
  - a. Create presentations for Dean's Council, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate
  - b. Develop media to publicize the benefits
4. Identify ways to increase the campus and community awareness and involvement of student organizations.
5. Create a targeted campaign to increase student interest and participation in organizations.
  - a. Continue distribution of the \$225,000 Student Leadership Development Fund (SOLF) - add web pages, create brochure, poster
  - b. Encourage advisors to take a more active role that would enhance the educational experience. Create an in-depth training session specifically for advisors (through a focus group coordinated by the Coordinator for Student Organizations?).
  - c. Identify other means of publicizing involvement opportunities
  - d. Consider a SOLF point system that would reward organizations that are more involved in both campus and community activities with extra funding
6. Encourage residence halls to create a campaign to increase identification with living on campus. Ideas include create a hall name and mascot and re-establishing a residence hall association and individual hall associations. This could lay the foundation to develop unity among residence halls and enhance a feeling of loyalty to the campus.
7. Create a coordinated student life effort, pulling together the traditional student affairs areas of student activities, residential programs, and university recreation and health services.

- a. A single administrator should be identified to focus division efforts on student development, hopefully positively impacting recruitment and retention efforts through an intentional, coordinated approach.
- b. This position would also be responsible for the marketing and advertising of current programs and activities and increasing awareness, campus and community wide, of cocurricular and extracurricular activities and opportunities.

In conclusion, what you have read are ideas and suggestions from one committee, solely viewing the objective from a student development and involvement perspective. A timeline would need to be devised for the purpose of implementation. The key factor in tying all this together is a solution to the disjointed nature of student services/affairs on our campus. For a program to be successful, sustain itself and ultimately grow there has to be leadership willing to provide definition, direction, and resources. When the first step is taken, and all facets of student development and involvement have been rejoined and report to one central leadership position, then the ground work can be laid and Angelo State University can begin down the path of developing a residential campus, from the student development and involvement perspective.