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UMM Student Services Committee
Minutes – November 10, 2006

Present: Corey Phelps, Andrew Olson, Mary Zosel, Britany Jablonski, Sara Haugen, Michael Eble, David Swenson, Adam Yust, Carla Riley, Dave Roberts, Sandy Olson-Loy

Not Present: Gail Hockert, Joe Alia, LeAnn Hedquist, Claire Lundgren

Guests: Julie Phelps, Henry Fulda, T.J. Ross

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 am.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 11/03/06 were approved

Residence life 6 year plan

Sandy introduced the topic briefly explaining that the Residence Life program had been trying to focus on not just upkeep of facilities but what sorts of thing would help to transform the student living experience on committee. The plan was handed out to the committee.

Henry explained the plan that over the past few years they had not put substantial funds into furnishings due to the required upgrades to fire safety systems, which are nearly complete. Starting next summer they plan to replace all of the furniture in Gay Hall. IN 2008 they will begin the renovation of Blakely Hall and replace all furniture in Pine Hall. In 2009 they plan to replace all furniture in Indy Hall. And finally in 2010 they plan to replace all of the room furniture in Spooner Hall. Also in 2007 they will move the Residence Life office to a Gay Hall ground floor as the current office is not accessible. This will make the current office space available to be a community space for the students living in the on campus apartments, which has been identified as a key issue based on student surveys and benchmarking studies. In addition they will also be working on the plumbing in the apartments and air conditioning them. Part of this plan is also to reduce the occupancy of the apartments from 4 to 3.

Sandy explained that in data about student satisfaction at UMM, students who live in the apartments have the lowest level of satisfaction with their UMM experience. Brittany asked if this would change the cost of the apartments. Henry explained that that has not yet been determined. Sandy stated that the priority is to increase the quality of the experience to students living there and the change will not have to produce the same revenue with fewer students.

Carla questioned what Henry meant by domestic water systems. Henry explained the plumbing obstacles in the apartments and essentially they would have to replace all of the plumbing in the buildings.

T.J. explained the plans to replace all of the furnishings. They currently have several rooms set up in sample rooms in gay hall. In asking students about what they wanted, they have identified that students would prefer to see furniture that is more mobile and gives students greater options in how they set up their rooms. They will be holding an open house next Wednesday for anyone who would like to see the possible furniture selections. They have also identified a design firm and plan to use the feedback from Student and will replace all furniture in both the rooms and lounges this summer.

Henry clarified that the costs for all of these changes will be covered by reserve funds and will not constitute any increase in the housing costs to students.

Mary asked if all of the furniture being considered as wood and if this would be as durable as wood. T.J. stated that one of the companies being considered did offer metal furniture. Julie added that even the wooden furniture all have steel reinforcements and should be very good quality. Sandy pointed out that all of the furniture being replaced in Gay Hall is original from the construction of the building.

Michael asked if any sustainability choices were being made in the selection of furniture and future building renovations. T.J. pointed out that at least one of the companies they are considering is very highly rated on issues of sustainability.

Adam asked what furniture would be placed in the rooms. T.J. explained that each room would contain a bed, desk, 3 drawer dresser, wardrobe and book shelves per student who occupies the space.

Sandy then handed out the Blakely Hall renovation plans for the committee to review. Part of the plan was to update the fire safety system and create a space that could help the campus in hosting more summer conference programs that could the university generate more funds as well as build greater community space. The expected total cost would be about eight million.

Henry spoke about the upper classmen focus groups that were used to help generate the current plans for the renovation. The plan would include public private bathrooms, suites and find ways to make the space more quiet. The building will also become completely ADA compliant.

Sandy stated that the strategic positioning document calls for the university to develop facilities that meet the modern expectations of students and that this is part of the plan to meet this need.

Michael asked what the technology level is currently in the halls. Julie stated that all halls have one hardwire port per student in each room and that most of the halls are wifi as well.

Mary asked about the possibility of more laundry facilities per building. Henry explained that there are plans to add more areas but one per floor may not be possible. The new

free service has made a huge impact and machines are used much more but not over filled.

Sara asked how green the plans are. Sandy stated that there is discussion about all future building and renovation have some sort of LEED certification at some level.

Julie talked about future programmatic changes to create theme floors. They will have two pilot floors next year, one in gay and one in Indy. They are gathering student input at this point and will select the themes this spring.

Mary asked if the fact that the ORL building is not ADA compliant would be an obstacle in what they do when turning this space into the community space for the apartments. Henry and Julie clarified that they are investigating how they will deal with this issue.

Dave R questioned if the budget plan is a wish list or if it had been developed with realistic expectations. Sandy stated that these are realistic proposals but that this document will be reviewed regularly and can continue to be adjusted as needed in the years ahead. Henry noted that if enrolment increases as is being projected this will mean that the number of students in on campus housing will increase and add to the available reserves as well.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am.

Submitted by Dave Swenson