

RLC 2015-16 Meeting 3, October 23rd

Location: Clara Dickson Residential Life Office

Present: Phong, Tony, Anusha, Sasha, Tracia, Linda, Chris, Mitch, Gabe, Aubrey

1. Introduction

DR Burke

Senior associate dean of student

5 assistants to report to him

Responsibility over every resident hall.

Tatkon center & also new student orientation

Off-campus housing outside his jurisdiction but work closely with Barbara and

Kristen in RPCC

Lottery also not his

2. Housing for transfers:

Housing guaranteed for all transfer : each house has a number of beds allocated for transfer.

Never students rejected from Cornell for not enough beds.

3. Residential student congress before this, one of the roles was to welcome more students to school. Also later hours for dining hall, soap dispenser, recycle bin, switched the order of the housing lottery: from seniors to sophomores to the current, reversed situation about 5-6 years ago. As a result, more sophomore & less seniors on West -> active citizenship program to fill up beds on West.

4. Having different prices for different residential halls -> separate people according to

socio-economic status. Do not want stigma attached to places.

5. What about getting rid of the lottery numbers and doing the same as freshman year.?

The resident life committee might need to meet with Barb & Kristen.

Proposed change: Group first, then allocate the timeslot to the group instead of timeslot then group. Thus removing the false incentive to block with people who has the best timeslots.

6. RA application process: how RA interacted with students. Lack of interaction with RAs, e.g. in the townhouse. This is due to conflicting schedules. The RAs go through a long training process and rigorous application. Sign up for weekly timeslot to talk to the RA if they so wish. RA can give out surveys/Facebook page to organize stuffs to do with students. Students should be able to send evaluations of RAs to staffs.

Increasing transparency of RA application process.

Dr. Burke: What is unclear abt RA app process?

Answer: The RA & other alternative opportunities of off-campus housing (e.g. Greek life, off-campus) should have a timeline that is together & in the same place. List of opportunities. The information are available but really not well disseminated & not well connected.

Perhaps a big infosesh during orientation.

RA results came out AFTER housing lottery system, thus difficulties.

Every Monday, a meeting with everyone on the committee.

7. Air-conditioning (problem is self-explanatory).

Air-con is expensive, but individual A/C for the floor lounge? Not extremely expensive

but would help.

This is a facilities question, so not Residential life budget. Partner with the RSC to do a cost-analysis. There is a facility group for North, West & Collegetown residential hall (the bureaucracy!). Currently there's no plan for centralized A/C in any of the old building.

8. Social Events:

Each hall has their own social events now, and inconsistency among the quality of the events. Upperclassmen should be encouraged to interact with their fellow residents.

Dinner with your neighbors: a dinner with your neighbors at the beginning and at the end of semester.

Appreciation note with your neighbor.

Card game/Board game day.

Small trips to farm/movie.

Q: What is the biggest barrier now?

The problem is people choose not to go because it takes time away from their other activities.

There need to be a structured program so that people will stay around.

Learning where you live can be had for a letter grade.

What's the next step to unifying people on West campus?

: There's a lot of things going on already to try and unify people but we need a policy to try and enforce it

It would be very difficult to make it mandatory

Possible give an incentive to make people go to them

West Campus Community Learning Committee

It's a structural problem where everybody can't tell everybody to run their own house on west.

The problem is not the lacking of events, but people just don't go to them.

RSC

Ideas such as more left handed desks in the auditoriums for students who are left handed

RSC has two weekly meetings, various school representatives who come to hall council

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