President’s Quality of Life Committee
Meeting Minutes for
Monday, February 24th, 2014
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Institutional Research Conference Room, Work Building

In Attendance: Monica Baloga (Chair), Catherine Cook, Jessica Cushman, Cheryl Davis, Carla Deras, Ulreen Jones, Eric Kledzik, Jackie Lingner, Mischa Maxwell, Vitalis Okafor, Sharon Stanfield, Kristi Van Sickle, Cookie Young

Absent: Chase Brown, Cat Carnley, Bill Macom, Daniel Otero, Dylan Polasko

I. Approval of January 27, 2014 meeting minutes
The minutes were approved with one abstention.

II. and III. Discussion and Recommendations:
(1) Internationalization
The Chair opened discussion of Internationalization to committee members. Ms. Lingner, from ISSS, began with how sharply international student numbers have increased recently. In ten years, the numbers have doubled. On campus, more than 30% of the students are international. Some recommendations that were made are
• Provide space to serve these students and to hold events, such as the proposed Conference Center.
• In order to involve the local community, suggestions were made to use a more centralized space, such as the Panther Dining patio area, for coffee hours or other social events.
• Focused advertising within the community is key. Advertise to local international community clubs and organizations to assist with supporting international students on campus.
• Speakers from the community could be invited, and international restaurants in town could participate by showcasing their food.
• Hire more staff to help with administration of events and advertising.
• Host more international meal days at Panther Dining, possibly once/month to showcase different cultures. Advertise to community.

Student Government Association (SGA) provided the committee with a list of talking points and recommendations from students regarding “Internationalization” as a QEP topic. These are appended to the meeting minutes.

(2) Housing Options
Due to lack of parking for off-campus students, SGA, again, emphasized students’ preferences for more traditional residence halls. In a memo listings recommendations and preferences (appended to minutes), students want “affordable, traditional style dorms, that are cleanly designed, have common areas, and are generally nice!” It was reported that 20 out of 20 SGA members wanted housing options like this. Discussion center briefly on the need for married housing and it was revealed that Southgate B does provide married housing for Turkish pilots.
Recommendations for improvements to existing housing include
- Existing Residence Quad should be painted, re-carpeted, and have windows replaced.
- Put healthier vending options in all housing
- New appliances in Residence Quad
- Standardized residence halls so student paying same fees get the same amenities in their rooms

Recommendations for new housing include
- Have community kitchens
- Affordable, traditional style dorms; NO cinder block construction, low ceilings, thin walls
- Consider lofting systems or bunk beds in traditional dorms

Recommendations for extra amenities include
- Resurrect optional commuter meal plan
- Create a better roommate selection survey
- Consider merit-based housing (higher GPA gains access to nicer rooms, etc.)

IV. Action Items
The Chair encouraged committee members to come prepared to discuss the next two QOL topics at the next meeting. These are Conference Center and Quality of Communication at FIT.

V. Next meeting: Monday, March 31, 2014 (tentative)
The committee will meet on this date from 12-1:15 p.m. in the Institutional Research Conference Room, Work Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica H. Baloga, Chair
March 25, 2014
Internationalization: How do we involve American and International Students

- Meet the ______’s Cultural seminars
- Religious outreach; target individual religions and see what they would like done differently - maybe the free Monday night dinner?
- Have a flag for every nation that goes to FIT; play name the flag at TT
- Have more international/culture based courses count as electives
  - Such as foreign language, culture study, international business, etc
    - Have opportunities for students learning a foreign language to talk with someone who speaks the language already
    - Would also intensify the cultural aspect of language
    - Languages 101 with ISSO could be a start
  - Also make these classes mandatory in order to get students to comply.
- Have more diverse regions for study abroad and for longer lengths of time.
  - Also while on study abroad, give students the opportunity to gain international field experience.
- For Americans, have an Intro to International Culture seminar to teach about the vastly different cultures
  - Integrate the class into UE somehow?
- More international food with dining services that is actually international
  - Have an international food mart in Panther Plaza
- Have an ISSO coffee hour style event where a specific culture is showcased
- Move the ESL classes out of Grissom and into other areas to allow international students to mingle more with Americans
- Create on campus events where students can immerse themselves in a culture that Americans will want to go to:
  - Food from local international restaurants
  - Use more effective marketing to draw a wider range of students to these events
    - Maybe use some of Ad Hoc’s time to promote these events
- Have humanities professors give extra credit for going to international events
- Have an event calendar that can be subscribed to that showcases all events, and promotes the international ones.
- Utilize the TVs in Crawford/PDH to promote international events
- Have an Ooh La La type game, but in order to get prizes and advance in the game the player must ask questions about international cultures to international students
- Encourage the faculty to be less stereotypical
Housing Ideas:

• Healthier vending machines in all housing
• New appliances in the dorms
  o Update fridges and microwaves in the Residence Quad
• Community kitchens in the newer dorms
  o Moderated by the RA’s to make sure students keep kitchens clean
• Furniture move CV-style, not the one piece systems like in the Quad
  o Cheaper to replace singular broken items,
• Have standardized dorms
  o If students are paying the same amount for rooms, they deserve the same items in their dorms
    ▪ Mirrors, chairs, microwaves, etc
• Ideally we want:
  o Affordable, traditional style dorms, that are cleanly designed, have common areas, and are generally nice!
  o 20 out of 20 SGA members wanted dorms like this!
• We don't like:
  o Cinder block walls
  o low ceilings
  o Poorly built structures that have thin walls, we like privacy!
• Create a better roommate selection survey
  o Have more in common with your roommate!
• Maybe have merit based housing, must have a certain GPA to live in a nice dorm
• Have lofting systems or bunk beds in traditional dorms