

Lock Haven University Master Plan Update  
WRT Project # 01764.02  
September 25, 2008  
By: Woo Kim

### **Meeting with Student Life and Housing Staff 9:00am to 10:45am**

#### Meeting Attendees:

Woo Kim	WRT
Bart Hall	Brailsford & Dunlavey
Nicholas Gabel	Brailsford & Dunlavey
Dr. Dwayne Allison	Dean of Student Affairs
Steven Lee	Director of Recruitment
Mike Heck	North Hall
Wendy ?	Campus Village
Amy B.	McEntire Hall
Max McGee	Smith Hall
George ?	Gross Hall
Ray Steele	High Hall
Chris Fortuner	Woolridge Hall
Carol Latronica	Dean of Student Development
Jeni Lucas	Student Life and Housing Secretary

### **Strengths in the Physical Component of Residence Halls**

- Max (Smith Hall) likes that the residence halls at LHU are well maintained; does not want to see demolition of good buildings; appreciates that buildings are maintained by professional staff, not graduate students; open to idea of building additional buildings.
- Mike (North Hall) feels that concrete block buildings are extremely quiet and also fire resistant.
- B&D shared from student focus groups that LHU residence hall buildings do not build character, but the communities inside do.

### **Community Building**

- Chris (Woolridge Hall) feels that the ratio of students to RA is good, about 30 students to one RA.
- DA stated that while the full-time live-in staff at LHU is unique and a big financial commitment, it is a commitment that LHU wants to continue.
- Carol (Student Development) feels that it is important for the millennial generation of students to have actual contact with other people – fosters communication skills and conflict resolution skills.
- Max (Smith Hall) feels that traditional residence hall experience creates well rounded students; also a forum to connect with older students – higher GPA; does not want to see LHU joining the Apt/Suite race at the expense of well rounded students.

### **Apartment / Suite Housing**

- Max (Smith Hall) feels that it is important to balance what the students want with what the students need; most of LHU students are from blue collar families, and may not be able to afford suite style housing.
- SL hears that suite style housing at Slippery Rock is creating a trend of student isolation.
- DA hears that some universities are counting the number of times students eat at dining halls to gauge level of isolation.
- B&D reported from student focus groups that students feel that traditional residence hall experience is important to college experience, but perhaps it is OK to have the option of suites in junior and senior years.
- Wendy (Campus Village) recently talked to a prospective student who was deciding between LHU and Slippery Rock – student liked the suites at Slippery Rock, LHU did not have something comparable to compete.

### **Common Space**

- Wendy (Campus Village) can use more common space, especially at the beginning of the school year when residence halls are oversubscribed at common spaces are used to house students.
- Max (Smith Hall) is content with the common space at Smith. Large space for large gatherings at ground level unlike Gross Hall which is off to one side, or McEntire which is up one floor. Max feels that study areas need to be more accessible, comfortable, and usable.
- Amy (McEntire Hall) states that more students are showing up for events in common space which can accommodate about 80+ students; likes that furniture is movable and the addition of exercise equipment.
- B&D reported that students from focus groups felt that the common space is “harsh.”
- Wendy (Campus Village) thinks it’s good for wear and tear.
- George (Gross Hall) feels that the common space in Gross Hall is awkward with columns in sightlines.
- Carol (Student Development) feels that lounge space on each floor can be increased.
- Ray (High Hall) feels that common space in High Hall works well; game room is used often.
- Chris (Woolridge Hall) states that common space is used so frequently that sometimes it is a space program coordination issue.
- There was discussion of TVs in common space; perhaps smaller TV rooms; big screen TV don’t impress students anymore, they are more interested in pool and ping pong; video game TV usage among male students an issue.

### **Air Conditioning**

- Is AC a big issue?

- Max (Smith Hall) does not think lack of AC in residence hall is an issue – residence halls are used only during September through May. September may be uncomfortable, but does not justify cost of installing AC in every unit.
- George (Gross Hall) stays in LHU during the summer and it is brutally hot.
- Discussion about whether installation of AC will make LHU more marketable to summer camps and conferences.
- SL states that according to student surveys, lack of AC is not a deal breaker.
- Jeni (Student Life) states that some students request AC due to respiratory health reasons, and LHU accommodates upon request.
- B&D mentions that among competition, AC is high on priority list.
- Ray (High Hall) feels that when the temperature reaches 90s during August and September, students will want AC, especially students on upper floors.
- Mike (North Hall) feels that it is more important to give students ability to control heat.
- Max (Smith Hall) explained that internal sensors were recently installed and students were educated to use dampers to control heat – saved money as a result.

#### **Other Building Issues**

- Replacement of residence hall windows is high on priority list.
- General agreement that university should retrofit buildings to be sustainable and design new buildings to be “green.”
- SL thinks this can be marketed to prospective students.
- Rationale for scattering freshmen randomly among residence halls is (a) to allow interaction between freshmen and upper classmen and (b) inject new energy into residence halls

#### **Master Planning Ideas**

- Why identity as halls instead of complexes? – each hall has unique identity.
- B&D reported that students feel that developing a plaza or rec building on the “beach” is a bad idea.
- Ray (High Hall) feels that LHU lacks green space in general.
- George (Gross Hall) likes the idea of promoting a “hill” community.
- Ray (High Hall) feels that the PUB (student union building) is not packed because (a) residential halls have recreational facilities, and (b) it is too far.
- Chris (Woolridge Hall) recommends a mini student union building near the residence halls.
- Jeni (Student Life) thinks PUB attracts off-campus students.
- Students are happy with location of Rec Center – they don’t mind the walk.

#### **Location of New Buildings**

- Silk Mill Parking Lot is a good location – mixed use building above existing parking lot.
- Commuter Lot between Rec Center and PUB
- B&D: Does it make sense to put new student housing close to train tracks? Not a problem.

- DA feels that new buildings can focus on the Sullivan, Russell, Ulmer area – either retrofit existing buildings, or demo and build new.
- Perhaps an addition can be built above Smith Hall?
- Ray (High Hall) thinks building on site of Courthouse Annex can be a good location, especially to improve the gateway of university; other side of tracks can also be a good location to strengthen the continuity of East Campus and Main Campus.
- Site between Woolridge and Silk Mill Parking Lot can also be a good site; no easy pedestrian connection, maybe an Ivy Lane concept on both sides of road.

### **Campus Gateway**

- Issue of slum housing at the gateways of campus – along Fairview.
- What if University purchased the slum blocks and developed student housing there? Can be a good idea, but probably won't eliminate slum housing, just push it out farther.

### **Bathrooms**

- Wendy (Campus Village) acknowledges that residence hall bathrooms are institutional, out of date, and offer very little privacy.
- Availability of bathrooms is never a problem.
- Urinals in women's bathroom can be moved to men's bathroom where urinals are needed.

### **Pricing**

- B&D: What is the price elasticity of on-campus housing?
- Ray (High Hall) feels that price is flexible – students will pay a \$800 a year premium for a single.
- Chris (Woolridge Hall) thinks that Evergreen Commons is the cap of how much LHU students are willing to pay for housing and amenities.
- B&D: Surprising that Evergreen Commons is full given \$500 a month rent and 12 month lease requirement.
- Amy (McEntire Hall) LHU could use something in between traditional residence hall and Evergreen Commons.
- Max (Smith Hall) wants to keep in mind that many LHU students are on financial aid.