The Undergraduate Residential Experience Committee

Town Hall Presentation
(Web Version)

Note: This presentation has been slightly modified for clarity and in response to student feedback at Town Halls
Committee Overview

- Formed in response to the Housing Master Plan and the two-year residency requirement
- Charged with creating a universal residential experience
- Convened in January, to conclude in December
- Committee includes students, faculty, and staff from a range of organizations, departments, and offices
Goals & Objectives

● Integration of academic and co-curricular
● Living spaces and options that encourage students to develop strategies for addressing their needs
● Foster a sense of affinity with Northwestern
● Students feel ownership over their residential experience
● Strong safety net for students
● Increased formal and informal interaction with faculty
● A compelling residential experience that offers students clear and substantial benefits within the live-on requirement
Methods

- Research (scholarship in higher education, psychology, and sociology)
- Survey of peer institutions’ practices
- Interviews and focus groups with students, faculty, and staff
- Surveys of Northwestern students
- Town Hall meetings
Working Assumptions
(not UREC decisions)

● Two-year residency requirement
● Single, universal residential experience
  ○ Preserve autonomy of Greek houses while integrating them into the residential experience
● The “Neighborhood” Concept
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Anticipated Neighborhood Features

- “Engagement center”
  - Multi-functional spaces
  - Collaboration spaces
  - Study spaces (private & group)
  - Classrooms
  - Demonstration kitchen
  - Prayer & meditation room

- Dining outlet
- Fitness center
- Game lounge
- Faculty-in-residence
- Subcommunities
Subcommunities
Subcommunities

- Smaller groups of around 75-150 students within neighborhoods
  - Greek houses would operate like subcommunities
- Semi-private spaces for intimate and tightly-knit communities
- Opportunities for students to build a sense of community for themselves via governance and programming