

July 23, 2003

**Living and Learning Purpose Group
Final Report and Recommendations
July, 2002, to July, 2003**

Our charge: “to advise the Chancellor in all matters pertaining to the establishment of ‘living and learning centers’ [student residences] at the university.”

Our membership: Teddy Robertson (Chair), Theresa Landis, Sue Taylor, Julie Colish, and Michael Pardales
Ad hoc student members: Jasmine Stewart, Brian Tesler
 Others who have assisted:
 Connie Creech, Campus nurse
 Kelli Hoppe, Student Life Off Campus Housing web page manager
 Matt Bohlen, Kim Laux, Marcus Popiolek, University Relations

Since the formal study of the feasibility of UM-Flint student housing is headed by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration, the Living and Learning Purpose Group has seen its charge as twofold:

1. to provide input into all VCA housing related processes including the MGT study, the Sasaki Master Plan, UM-Ann Arbor Financial Office input, and the RFP consultant search.
2. to compile near-campus housing information that will complement future on-campus residences. This bridge between the University and the downtown/neighborhood area can initiate the development of an urban residential culture until University residences are built.

NOTE: The MGT study of November, 2002 (Section 4 - p. 32) indicated that approximately 20% of UM-Flint students live near the campus in order to attend school.

Thus, we:

- formulated our Purpose Group concerns about housing in list form. *See Attachment 1.* These guided our input when attending VCA-led meetings, July 2002-July 2003.
- visited select near-campus housing (most within walking distance to campus) that had visual appeal (attractiveness and ambience), and would be inviting for prospective students--*factors not considered in the MGT external market analysis (Section 5)*, collected data and took digital photographs. *See Attachment 2: list of housing units we viewed.*
- arranged with the Office of Admissions and University Relations to post our gathered information on the Admissions website under “Housing” to promote near campus housing for prospective students (Kim Laux and Marcus Popiolek). This information will appear--with appropriate disclaimers of responsibility---when the new UM-Flint website is launched, August 1, 2003. It also will be included in a booklet which University Relations (Marcus Popiolek) is preparing for Admissions and in the complete listing of housing options maintained by Kelli Hoppe in the Office of Student Life, usually accessed by already admitted students. *See Attachment 3: draft Admissions web page with housing photos.*

<http://wwwtest.umflint.edu/resources/offices/admissions/housing.php> follow only the links for the Hardy Apartments. The map is temporary; UR graphic designer will create a better one--this one should just give you the idea of what it will do (basically lead you to the next page). There are still some issues with the coding of the yellow navigation bar

from this folder level. New pictures that include students and text with disclaimers to be added.

- promoted the “living and learning” concept on campus at a Thompson Center for Teaching and Learning seminar marketed primarily to Faculty. *See Attachment 3: Learning Communities flyer.* [Cost for Lloyd Hall group in 2003 was \$150.00]
- considered the types of expanded services that should be available for future resident students (both on- and near-campus) including health care and counseling; computing and library services; recreation; downtown neighborhood community relations, etc.

Living/Learning Purpose Group Results:

1. Our visits to the near-campus apartment complexes immediately increased housing options for International students beyond the Regency Apartments. The **total number of units** in the buildings viewed on *Attachment 2* is **692**. Property managers/owners are very interested in renting to students and some are open to creative leasing options.
2. We began to educate the campus community about the living and learning concept through the Thompson Center for Teaching and Learning programming in the Fall semester, 2003.
3. We provided recommendations for services for future resident students, both on- and near-campus, regarding: health care and counseling; computing and library services; recreation; and downtown neighborhood community relations.

Living/Learning Purpose Group Recommends:

1. that Theresa Landis be charged to attend VCA-led housing meetings and emphasize that we want the “learning” component to have space and be part of the design of on-campus housing; and that Theresa work with Sue Taylor and University Relations to create press coverage that portrays the urban apartment option as the housing that precedes and works with future University campus housing.
2. that the living and learning communities concept be promoted further through another Thompson Center for Teaching and Learning presentation on campus to faculty and staff during Fall semester, 2003. This presentation might be the Michigan Community Scholars--a living and learning community with a focus on students interested in urban issues and/or the Alice Lloyd Hall Health Care group of particular interest to SHPS.
3. that Kelli Hoppe in the Office of Student Life team with Sue Taylor (International Students) as the designated liaison persons with apartment managers of all housing sites, both those highlighted in the near campus Housing section on the Admissions’ webpage and those in the Student Life complete list; this team would work with Greg Snyder (Purchasing; Contracts) to draft a statement of conditions for **building managers** to be included on the U of M-Flint Admissions and Student Life websites for housing.
4. that Sue and Kelli meet with UM-Flint Safety to apprise them of all locations where students may be renting and about this housing activity in general.
5. that Sue Taylor be charged with developing and fostering relationships between resident students and the downtown community (churches and other downtown organizations, as well as DDA);

that possible meetings be considered with owners/managers, UM-Flint representatives, students, city officials, DDA security staff and UM-Flint Safety.

6. that future University resident students **on campus** be required to follow the model established for International students regarding health care coverage: they either have their own policy that covers them while attending UM-Flint or they purchase the UM-offered policy available for all 3 campuses (an Aetna policy at \$1,325 per year available through the Student Development Center).
7. that Connie Creech (campus nurse) and Jessie Lopez (campus counselor) participate in future housing planning , along with Dr. Michael Giacalone, to expand nurse and counseling services as well as preventative care and wellness programming.
8. that those involved in this Living and Learning Purpose Group be a link to and used as a resource for the first Office of Residence Life on the U of M-Flint campus (possibly around 2005). We suggest that near-campus housing be the responsibility of the Office of Admissions and/or some other SSEM area and that the “auxiliary/administration” aspects of the University-built residences remain the purview of VCA.
9. that ITS, the Library, and the Recreation Center consider gradually extending their hours of operation to better meet the needs of on-campus students, and that Debi Rowden (who is developing WAP capabilities on campus) be the liaison from ITS.