

## Response Format for Framing Team Submission

### Framing Team: Student Life

#### ❖ **College's Purpose:**

To continue to serve as a small, nurturing, liberal arts college and a model for church relatedness that prides itself on student success. To provide our students with opportunities and to promote an atmosphere that we are here to support and encourage students. To continue to take pride in how much our students grow both academically and socially from the time they enroll to the time they graduate.

#### ❖ **Student Life Core Values:**

To continue to promote an atmosphere of community and an environment where the educational process for students exists both in the classroom and outside of the classroom. The Student Life Committee believes we are a college that offers learning experiences in the classroom and out of the classroom. The committee also believes that what happens outside the classroom can be just as important as what happens inside the classroom when it comes to a student's education. We also believe this education should be provided in a nurturing and supportive environment that promotes open mindedness and supports the personal, social, cultural, and academic development of Martin Methodist College students within a diverse community.

#### ❖ **Key Opportunities:**

##### **A. Student Union Building**

- The Student Union Building needs to become a real Student Union Building that is geared to the needs of both commuting and residential students. One of the main concerns that students have is there is not a place on campus where they can go and hangout. Students need a place where they can go during the day or evening that is directed toward their needs. This will build a sense of community, by keeping students on campus and providing them with a place they all enjoy going. The Student Life Committee understands that space is at a premium, but this needs to be a top priority.

## **B. Safety and Security**

- The college should make the commitment to ensuring full time security, over the next three years. This should include hiring retired police officers or trained professionals that will patrol the campus 7 days a week 24 hours a day.
- Existing security cameras need to be fully operational and should be monitored on a regular basis to ensure they are functional.
- Additional security cameras need to be added to cover entire campus over the next six years.
- The college should continue to conduct emergency preparedness drills on a yearly basis.
- The college should continue to enhance the early alert system.

## **C. Parking**

- The committee recommends that within three years the college should purchase the lot on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and West Madison Street and turn it into temporary parking.
- The committee also believes the college should turn the north end of Criswell Hall into additional parking.
- Within six years the college should be exploring parking options at the old tennis courts.
- The college could also explore lease arrangements with Bennett May and the lot behind McDonalds.
- The committee recommends that by the end of the ten year plan the college should construct a parking deck at the commuter lot.

## **D. Student Health Services**

- The college should establish a contract with a local health care provider until a student health clinic can be provided.
- The college should require vaccinations for all new students including shots for hepatitis, meningitis, and TB.
- The college should add a full time counselor to provide free counseling for students.

## **E. Dining Services**

- The college should explore extending hours of service.
- The college should ensure that dining services provides a variety of healthier choices.
- The college should explore the addition of a food court.
- The college should explore the addition of a new dining hall or expanding and renovating the current facility.
- The college should explore the advantages of running our dining hall versus contracting it out.

## **F. Residential Life**

- The college should continue to look at ways to grow the residential population by adding incentives and value to living on campus.
- The college should continue to make improvements to existing residential space. An example of this is by taking one residential facility off line for one month each summer for enhancements and improvements.
- The college should maximize all the existing residential space especially at Oakwood and Upperman Hall.
- The college should continue property accusations for themed housing.
- The college should construct two more apartment buildings to accommodate 116 students.
- The college should hire a full time Director of Residential Life.

## **G. Student Activities**

- The college should explore bringing Greek Life to our campus.
- The college should explore transitioning the Student Union Building into a facility focused on the needs of the residential and commuting students.
  - This facility could be used for developing a student help center
  - Housing the offices for Student Government, Greek Life , Director of Student Activities , Director of Residential Life
  - 24 hour study rooms
  - 24 hour lounge area with T.V., pool table, ping pong table, foosball table, and WIFI
  - Host blood drives

- Meeting and office space for summer camps and groups.

The Student Life Committee would like for the administration to explore the possibility of turning the Student Union Building into a dining facility and transitioning the Christian Life Center into Student Union Building. We believe this is the ultimate solution to provide quality services for our students. We also believe by building a new multipurpose facility on the east campus for basketball and volleyball, with practice courts, is also the ultimate solution for our athletes. This facility could be used not only for the college but also for the community in hosting athletic events, concerts and conferences.

## **H. Intramural Sports**

- The college should continue to explore additional intramural opportunities especially with use of the new intramural field on the east campus.
- The Program should publicize the existing participation manual on our website.
- The college should hire a full time Director of Intramural Sports. This would allow the program to take full advantage of the new field. We have the potential to add additional sports and league's (men, women, coed, and president's cup) to the program.
- The college should provide more financial support for the program, this will allow the program to join NIRSA, expand programs, hire better officials, and provide opportunities for our students to compete against other College and University intramural sports programs.
- The college should consider adding an Intramural sports fee for all students at the beginning of each semester to assist in the expansion of the program.

## **I. Commuting Students**

- The college should create a central location for commuting students to go in between classes, for example the Student Union Building.
- The college should provide commuting students with a certain amount of money that they can spend in Jazzman's Café, as we currently do for residential students. This will assist in engaging them and hopefully get them more involved in Student Life.
- The college should offer some events and activities earlier in the evening so commuting students can participate without having to leave the campus after class and come back.

## **J. Customer Service**

The Student Life Committee feels very strongly about customer service and we believe that this area is not receiving the attention that it deserves. Students are our customers and students expect certain things. Our goal as an institution needs to be to not only meet student's expectations, but to exceed them. Here are some suggestions:

- The bookstore should make arrangements for students visiting during the summer either at Orientation or at other times so they can order their books. When they arrive on campus in the fall their books will be waiting on them in their rooms or if they are a commuting student waiting on them at registration.
- The college should consider extending office hours in Colonial Hall and the Bookstore to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. This will give evening college students not only access to the Bookstore, but also access to the Financial Aid, Business, and Academic Offices.
- All campus phone lines should be answered by an individual or after 3 rings have the option to leave a voicemail. One of the most frustrating things for students is for a phone to continually ring without the option to leave a voicemail.
- Establish a student help center within the Student Union Building. This Center would assist students with a variety of services including parking passes, ID's, key replacements, work study job applications, IT assistance and any other service that student's may need.

### **❖ Key Challenges:**

The key challenges to all ideas listed above will be finances. Additional challenges will be facilities and staffing. The Student Life Committee feels that if the changes listed above are implemented they will pay for themselves many times over by increased student retention and new student enrollment growth.