

## Introduction

A few years ago, members of the Student Senate drafted *An Initiative for Student Life: The Examination of Student Center Needs*. Almost simultaneously, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) drafted *Changing Focus: A Report of the Strategic Planning Committee*, a report that highlights eleven areas of student concern. Since then, elements of that document have come into fruition and many of the suggestions addressed are since resolved, ignored, or outdated. After the completion of the Hansen Student Center and the culmination of the latest SPC report, Student Senate sought new projects. At times these projects are reactionary, while certain issues are recurrent at Student Senate meetings. At times these issues seem complex and complicated, while at other seem to have straightforward solutions. This report is a compilation of those concerns and suggestions.

This report is timely for Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) students. We recently completed the Hansen Student Center (HSC), the largest student-conceived project on campus, and the University is currently preparing for the February 2003 North Central Association (NCA) visit as a part of the self-study in the reaccrediting process. We hope this report gives foresight and organization to current and future Student Senate leaders while also alerting the University and the NCA of various student concerns on campus.

We divided the wide range of concerns into two sections; those concerning the offices under the Dean of Students and those concerning other areas of campus. Please note that each recommendation is bold and italicized. We encourage you to not simply

skim the recommendations, but to read the information preceding them, as it is often necessary to understand the recommendation itself.

At all times, please note that this report is not meant to criticize any office, especially not the Dean of Students Office, nor does it intend to draw the ire of any group on campus. If any student group feels left out, we apologize and promise that this is certainly not a comprehensive list of student concerns, nor a culmination of what Student Senate will be doing over the next few years. It is a list of concerns frequently revisited in Student Senate meetings and around campus. If any group feels offended by the material contained within, we encourage you to discuss your concerns with current leaders of Student Senate. Our goal is to present these concerns and work with different constituencies of the IWU campus to make the institution the best it can be.

Office of the Dean of Students

### Introduction:

Without an official job description, it is difficult to offer a student viewpoint of any particular office on campus because it is impossible to say whether or not that office is meeting its requirements. In the case of the Dean of Students Office and its subsidiaries, however, we believe that it is imperative that student voices are heard. To that end, ***our initial recommendation is that a detailed job description for the Dean of Students, as well as a general description of the offices under the Dean of Students, be drafted or revised by students with the help of the current Dean of Students.***

Virtually every student-oriented program that is offered on campus is under the supervision of the Dean of Students Office. It seems that these offices would work together very closely (i.e. The Office of Multicultural Affairs would work with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life to encourage more minority student representation in the Greek system). Inevitably, these offices do work together on a number of different projects. However, our concern is congruent with a concern raised by the NCA during their visit in 1993 about the entire campus, ***the Dean of Students should facilitate constant communication among the offices in order for them to work on more proactive and cooperative goals, which will ultimately lead to a more united student body.***[\[1\]](#)

Finally, when working on a job description, ***the office should also consider updating its mission statement.*** Included in the statement should be the philosophy of our current Dean of Students and that the primary role of the Dean of Students office is to advocate for students. When implementing this mission statement, the office should consider whether or not a student's initial contact with the office is for consultation or for disciplinary purposes. If it is for disciplinary purposes, the odds are that the office will not be viewed as an advocate.

Obviously, discipline must remain a part of the office's role. However, even that can be transformed into a positive light by taking advantage of the All-University Judiciary Committee (AUJC). ***Students should be encouraged by the chief hearing officer to use the AUJC more often for disciplinary hearings when serious violations are being considered. In doing so, its membership should be more scrutinized, as well***

*as mutually agreed upon by the students (being represented by the Student Senate President and Vice President) and the University (being represented by the Associate Dean of Students, who also chairs the committee).* Faculty members who have not been actively involved in student life should not be a part of this committee just as students who have not been involved should not be.

We would like to re-emphasize that we do not find fault with our current Dean of Students, or his office. However, that office is the student's most valuable resource on campus, and we are focusing the majority of our attention to it to see that our concerns are audible. To that end, in addition to the suggestions already offered, we have identified four areas directly supervised by the Dean of Students that are of concern to students; Security, Health Services, the equity of small halls, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. We have outlined the general concerns and have suggested potential changes for each area.

Security:

*≥The mission of Security is to aid in the enforcement of all the rules and regulations of the University and provide for a safe and secure campus. It shall provide for the personal safety of all members of the University community and guests, their personal property, and the property of the University. Security shall provide 24-hour emergency response and patrol capability for the University community. Security shall provide for enforcement of University rules and regulations, residential safety and security, emergency response (injury, fire, weather, etc.), crime detention and investigation, building security and access, patrol services, special events, parking, ID., key control, escorts, van safety, heating plant, lighting and emergency phones, training and miscellaneous services. It shall work closely and in harmony with the local police and non-police community service agencies. Security shall always be sensitive to the unique nature of a University community and serve in direct support of its goals.≤*

-Security Mission Statement

≥Security should be everyone's responsibility at Illinois Wesleyan University.≤

-Dean Matthews[2]

Current practices within Security at IWU comply with the language used in the mission statement. Security carries out certain duties in securing the campus. However,

we do encourage the university to focus even more attention to Security in order to guarantee its effectiveness as the campus grows and expands.

## **Main Desk Operations**

The Main Desk of the Memorial Center contains a campus security computer where 180 phone lines come in from all campus buildings and residence halls. Whenever an alarm is triggered (i.e. fire alarms), an emergency message appears on the computer. The student worker at the Main Desk is then responsible for responding to that computer. After responding to the computer the student worker must then contact Security by radio and explain the situation. This process invites error and mistakes to occur due to an extended line of communication. The student worker at the Main Desk is also responsible for answering the Security phone line (556-1111) that is transferred to the Main Desk when Security cannot be in their office. In addition to the Security computer and Security phone, the student worker must also answer the University's information number (556-1000), sell meal tickets and provide customer service to students and visitors at the Main Desk. There should be a clear separation between the responsibilities of Security and the responsibilities of customer service duties at the Main Desk. Security should be responsible for its own computer and the Main Desk workers should be responsible for providing information. *Therefore, SPC recommends that the Main Desk and Security become two separate entities.*

## **Additional Security Forces**

As the University has grown with the additions of the Ames Library and the Hansen Student Center, Security has not expanded. With the increase of student enrollment and the increase of tuition, Security should also expand to ensure that it can continue to be competent in securing the campus. Currently, when Security locks buildings at night, two officers complete the task together, leaving the office empty. Additionally, there are numerous times students visit Security, and the headquarters is locked, because the tasks require the attention of all available Security officers. SPC believes that Security should never be totally vacated, and therefore *recommend that additional Security personnel are hired to ensure that the headquarters is staffed at all times.*

## Communication

We realize that there are many anti-Security sentiments exist on campus. When some students think of Security, they relate to something negative to which Security responds. One solution to this problem is to move Security closer to high traffic areas of campus to increase visibility among the students. *SPC recommends that Security move from its current location to the Memorial Center.*

### Health Services:

Currently, IWU's Health Services is composed of two registered nurses (RNs). If a prescription medication is needed, the RNs have to call the student's family doctor. Doctors do not always feel comfortable prescribing medication to a patient they have not examined themselves due to liability issues. Thus, these family doctors have been known to deny the request for an antibiotic. In these instances, the RNs refer the student to a local doctor. The student is then responsible for finding their own transportation to these

local doctors and for payment of the bill. For this reason, we can benefit by having a nurse practitioner on campus.

Delores Helm, director of Health Services, shared the following statistics, regarding the 2001-02 school year with us:

- 119 students who visited Health Services needed to have the nurses call a doctor for a consultation
  
- 106 students needed to have the nurses call local doctors to make appointments[3]

Based on these numbers alone, students would have benefited from having a nurse practitioner on the IWU staff on 225 different occasions. That is almost 10% of our campus. In addition, female students have expressed dissatisfaction with the services available.[4]

A nurse practitioner would be able to perform a wide range of services that are currently unavailable on campus, including diagnosis, treatment, and laboratory testing. A nurse practitioner can perform most of the services that a medical doctor can and would also have the authority to prescribe medications. For females, a nurse practitioner would be able to perform a pelvic exam, during which Pap smears and testing for sexually transmitted diseases could be conducted. Testing for sexually transmitted diseases could also be done for males. ***It is our recommendation that a nurse practitioner be added on a part-time basis to the Health Services staff.***

Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, is relatively the same size as IWU. Their health center has a system that we may want to study. First, ill students need to visit with a nurse to get their conditions triaged. Then, if needed, an appointment can be scheduled with the physician or nurse practitioner. Funding for the office comes from a general fund, so there is no specific health fee on the students' tuition bills. Moreover, students are not charged for office visits for illnesses. There is a minimal fee if shots or lab tests are given. If IWU takes our suggestion to heart and hires a nurse practitioner, it would be counterproductive to charge students for the service and *we therefore recommend that, except in special circumstances, this be a free service offered to IWU students.*

#### The Inequities of Small Halls:

Illinois Wesleyan University houses roughly 96 students in non-traditional residence halls, commonly referred to as  $\geq$ small halls $\leq$ . Blackstock, Kemp, Park Place, Wilder, and DeMotte are considered small halls, mostly because they house fewer students and offer different living arrangements than the traditional residence halls. Room fees are the same for students living in small halls as they are for students residing in traditional residence halls. Unfortunately, drastic inequities exist between them, which puts residents in small halls at a disadvantage. Among the inequities are the ratios of Ethernet ports per student, air conditioning and heating issues, the bathroom facilities, and the physical state of the buildings.

## **Ethernet Ports**

Students who live in a traditional residence hall are guaranteed to have their own Ethernet port. Students living in small halls do not have the same luxury. Only Kemp

Hall has an equal number of Ethernet ports as residents in each room. In the other small halls, residents of certain rooms must share the Ethernet ports with their roommates. The following table clearly illustrates the discrepancies between the number of students and the number of Ethernet ports in various small hall rooms:

Room Number	Number of occupants	Number of Ethernet Ports
Blackstock 204	3	2
Blackstock 301	3	2
Wilder 202	3	2
Demotte 201	3	2
Wilder 201	3	1
Park Place 202	2	1
Park Place 203	2	1
Wilder 203	2	1
Blackstock 302	5	2
Blackstock 303	5	2

All students living in traditional halls have network access at all times, yet this is not the case on a shared basis. This unjustly puts those students living in these small halls at a disadvantage. In today's academic society, every student deserves unlimited network access. Also, even though some buildings may not be equipped for wall units, wireless Ethernet enables the University to make all rooms equitable. ***Thus, our recommendation is to install the needed Ethernet ports into the aforementioned rooms to make the number of Ethernet ports per room equal to the number of students housed in each room.***

## Heating and Air Conditioning

All traditional residence halls have air-conditioning. Blackstock, Kemp, and DeMotte Halls, however, do not have air-conditioning. Again, this inequity puts residents of these small halls at a disadvantage. Residents must keep their windows open when it is hot outside for the temperature to be bearable inside. Since these small halls are regular houses, rooms on the first floor are on ground level. Thus, as they are sleeping, there is only a screen separating them from anyone on the outside. Students have expressed anxiety over this safety concern. To that end, ***we recommend the installation of 33 window units, which is one for each bedroom in small halls that are not already equipped (10 in Blackstock, 5 in Demotte, and 18 in Kemp).***

Moreover, DeMotte Hall's residents also are experiencing problems with inadequate heating. DeMotte 101 is comprised of two rooms. One of these rooms (the one that the beds fit in) used to be a porch. There is no insulation in this room! In fact, there is a door that is not even sealed off properly, exposing the room directly to the outdoor air. A drastic temperature difference can be noticed when walking from the house into this bedroom. Its residents must use seven blankets to keep warm. The Office of Residential Life denied their request for space heaters because it is against their fire safety rules, however, ***something must be done immediately to correct this inequality.***

## **Washroom Facilities**

The washroom facilities in the small halls are inadequate for the number of students housed in them. For example, thirteen students reside on Kemp Hall's second floor, yet the floor's bathroom has only one toilet, one shower, and one sink, making the student to toilet ratio 13:1. To put that into perspective, the ratio typically enjoyed by a

student living in a traditional residence hall is about 5:1. Ratios of students per toilets, showers, and sinks are also high in Wilder (9:1 ratio on the second floor). Additionally, in Blackstock, there are toilets that sit side-by-side without a divider. Not only does this need to be taken into consideration when figuring the ratio of students to toilets, it is not even up to legal standards.<sup>[5]</sup> Also, showers that were meant for one person have been adjusted to accommodate two people. These inequities in the number of bathroom facilities, like toilets, showers, and sinks, urgently need to be addressed. *We recommend construction in these halls to add toilets, showers, and sinks to the floors with these unacceptably high ratios.*

## Disrepair

There are also certain physical conditions in some of the small halls that are not acceptable. The basement of DeMotte Hall, for example, is in a complete state of disrepair. Dead cockroaches are lying around, the paint on the walls is severely chipped and the first floor shower leaks through the ceiling, leaving puddles on the basement floor and water spots on the ceiling. There is a small room/closet off of the main room in the basement that is piled about knee-high with dirt. For quite obvious reasons, the residents fear going down there, but unfortunately they must to do their laundry.

Some rooms in Blackstock Hall also seem to be in a state of general disrepair. The second floor bathroom is cracked and has holes. In addition, many residents' rooms have cracks in the ceiling and the walls have badly peeling paint. Residents have also complained of poor insulation, leading to draftiness inside the building, as well as the presence of old, battered furniture that is not comparable to the new furnishings of the

residence halls. Another major complaint of Blackstock Hall residents is the condition the house was in when they arrived this fall. One student said at move-in there was dirty silverware in the room, used q-tips in the medicine cabinet, and dirt on the walls and floor. Also, filthy curtains were in a pile on one of the beds. Another student found used condom wrappers on the floor during move-in.<sup>[6]</sup> ***Again, steps should be taken to repair and renovate the condition of these halls.***

When ORL was informed about the filthy condition of these rooms, they claimed that sometimes the small halls get overlooked in trying to get the entire campus cleaned before classes start. This response from ORL is not acceptable. Other than Park Place, the small halls are not used for summer housing or summer conferences. The staff has all summer to clean and repair these halls. On the other hand, the traditional halls are used during the summer and are still able to be cleaned before the students arrive for fall semester. ***The issue of small halls being overlooked during summer cleaning should be looked into by the administration.***

It is evident that the small halls do not compare to the traditional residence halls on campus. In the many regards mentioned above, residents of small halls are at a disadvantage. If time was taken by the administration to meet these residents and to tour these facilities, the residents would be more than willing to point out the most problematic aspects of each individual hall. Unfortunately, many of these residents have complained and even brought them to the attention of Physical Plant and ORL, but to no avail. In a visit to DeMotte Hall, the overwhelming feeling was that they were being overlooked.<sup>[7]</sup> Yet, these students are paying the same amount to live in these small halls

as they would if they lived in traditional residence halls. It is unjust for IWU to charge the same room fee for residents of small halls, yet ignore the obvious inequities in housing they face. *Therefore, the SPC strongly urges prompt responses to these inequities, and in the meantime we recommend some form of compensation be looked into for students living in these small halls.*

The Office of Multicultural Affairs:

≥We intend, moreover, to prepare our students for responsible citizenship and leadership in a democratic society and a global community. We want Illinois Wesleyan to reflect the ethnic, racial and cultural diversity of the world.≤

-Excerpt from Illinois Wesleyan University's Mission Statement

When the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) was created, its intended purpose was to offer support to minority students. As years have passed, its role on campus has expanded considerably while the size and staffing of the office has only marginally increased. Also, it has been widely acknowledged and accepted that multiculturalism and diversity today extend far beyond just minority students. It has been the general sentiment of students, faculty, and administrators alike that the size and staffing of the office is not adequate to meet the increased amount of responsibility that has grown over the years. Therefore, we believe that the time has come to rethink the role and structure of the OMA in the IWU community.

## **Minority Recruitment and Retention**

First and foremost, it is important to mention that the University's mission statement acknowledges its commitment to promote diversity in the IWU community. Based on recent statistics of current enrollment of ALANA students, the University clearly does not live up to the mission statement and does not reflect the ethnic, racial and cultural diversity of the world. Although the Admissions Office, the Athletic Office, and the OMA have done a good job of moving forward in the area of recruitment and retention of minority students, there is still enormous potential to improve. Currently, the OMA generally plays a supplementary role in the recruitment process. Although it has become proficient in this role, its resources and expertise could be better utilized in a role that actively seeks to participate and does so without first being asked. By aligning its efforts with these key minority recruitment forces in the IWU community, the OMA would be able to establish better communications with them and be more actively engaged as a proactive force in minority recruitment. Also, it would be able to better utilize its resources by taking a more planned and structured approach to assisting in the recruitment and retention of minority students. Part of the reason that the OMA has only been able to have a supplementary role is that there is no formal plan outlined. Although these key groups have worked hard to make noticeable strides towards minority recruitment and retention over the past few years, the results of their efforts still fall short of the University's goal.

The following chart compares IWU's enrollment of ALANA students to the United States' composition of ALANA students:[\[8\]](#)

	2001-02 IWU	2002-03 IWU	2000 U.S. Census
African-American	2.4%	2.8%	12.3%

Latino-American	1.7%	1.9%	12.5%
Asian-American	2.7%	2.6%	3.6%
Native-American	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%
Total ALANA	6.8%	7.4%	29.3%

Based on these statistics, it is apparent that the University has a long way to go in accomplishing its goal. ***Therefore, the SPC believes that this proactive role should be further defined in a meeting or meetings consisting of the Director of the OMA, the Dean of Admissions, the Coordinator of Minority Recruitment, the Dean of Students, the Student-Athlete Academic Counselor, and the student members of the Intercultural Leadership Alliance.***

## Campus Climate

According to the Dean of Students, the OMA should be one of the most important and visible offices on campus. The OMA should be actively involved in all areas of campus, specifically student life, alumni relations, and faculty, staff, and administrator diversity. It should also work closely with the Director of Minority Recruitment and the Student-Athlete Academic Counselor to discuss new ways to maximize the impact the OMA has on the IWU community. Understandably, this is a much larger role; therefore, ***SPC recommends that, while the OMA is expanding its influence, the University should support this role in the hiring of additional staff if necessary.***

## The Multicultural Center

Over the years, the Multicultural Center (MC) has been a place where both ALANA and majority students have been able to share their cultural experiences with each other and

learn those of others. Minority students have long voiced their beliefs that the MC has played a significant role in their lives and personal development at IWU. However, the current MC is relatively small and in need of repair. Students have expressed concerns that the size constraints, as well as the limited hours of the current MC limit its usefulness. Due to the low number of ALANA students on campus, the MC also serves as a place for social gathering that several ALANA students on this campus need. Similar social structures currently in place for other students are fraternity and sorority houses. The MC is a place where students can relax and socialize comfortably in a place that is their own. This building is instrumental when looking at the retention of ALANA students. In addition, the OMA might be able to better work with multicultural groups and gain more contact with students if its office were located inside the MC.

The current MC does have a casual and welcoming atmosphere, though, where students of all cultures, origins, and interests can feel comfortable learning about and experiencing diversity and multiculturalism firsthand. *Therefore, the SPC recommends that the new MC be a freestanding structure that is centrally located on campus and open later during the night hours and, if possible, contain the OMA.*

## **Additional Areas of Student Concern**

**The offices under the Dean of Students serve the students, so it is only natural that a majority of any student-produced report focuses on them. However, there are numerous additional areas of concern that students have highlighted, including issues related to the Hansen Student Center's first two semesters of operation, the University's environmental awareness, issues related to the Office of Financial Aid and University tuition, concerns over the motion raised at a recent faculty meeting about student evaluations of faculty, and a growing desire to re-evaluate the closing times of some of the academic buildings on campus. These concerns are detailed in the second half of this report.**

## The Hansen Student Center:

The Hansen Student Center (HSC) is the fruition of a goal that was conceived by past Student Senate leaders in meetings, Strategic Planning documents, and a report titled *An Initiative for Student Life: The Examination of Student Center Needs*. The focus and crux of that report highlighted ten specific concerns related to student life and the Memorial Center. These concerns articulated three different lifestyles of IWU students; academic, extra-curricular and social. It explored how these lifestyles relate to one another and how our student center at the time, the Memorial Student Center, was not meeting all of the student lifestyle desires. Since this report, students are proud and excited to know that the HSC is a reality, and it meets and addresses many of the desired goals articulated in the aforementioned document. While it is important to applaud the strengths of the HSC, we must also remain cognizant of a few areas of concern at this point in student life at the HSC.

This section will focus on the HSC in regards to the need for a Hansen Center Steering Committee, the student friendliness of the building, and the building's closing hours. These three major items are areas that we believe are worth noting as we look at ways to continually maintain and better our student center to best meet student needs.

## **The Need for a Hansen Center Steering Committee**

The HSC was built in such a way that it is a fantastic venue for almost any program sponsored by student organizations, the office of Student Activities, and Student

Senate. The ≥Center Court≤ area, located on the main floor of the HSC, is great for attracting large crowds. It is a centralized location, near Hattieπs, and the acoustics are amazing, especially with the state of the art sound equipment. However, the overwhelming success of this space might not have been anticipated when planning the building.

In order to come to a consensus on usage of this very important space, the Hansen Center Building Committee conceived a Hansen Center Steering Committee (HCSC).<sup>[9]</sup> These persons met and thought the HCSC would be useful in democratically drafting a policy regarding student programming in the HSC that would be updated regularly to ≥accommodate the continuously changing campus climate.≤ It would also meet on a regular basis to ≥advise the building managers of the needs of students, handle complaints in a joint fashion, and handle borderline programming cases.≤<sup>[10]</sup> Because the HSC was conceived by students and is supposed to be student-run, we recommend that *Student Senate, along with the Dean of Student Activities, begin work immediately on forming the HCSC.*

The committee, as proposed by the SPC and the Hansen Center Building Committee, was to be chaired by the Vice-President of Student Senate and consist of thirteen students, each representing different types of special interest groups (i.e. an individual to represent the religious organizations), as well as HSC building managers and the Dean of Students. If this proves to be too many people to organize together, future SPCs, along with the HSC building directors, should narrow the list down, **but at**

***no point should a student-run special interest group not have a voice on the committee, if they so desire.***

Many organizations plan for various events or meetings to take place on Center Court, and that has raised many questions in the first months of the opening of the HSC. If a group is using the area, they tend to monopolize a great part of the building, especially the first two floors. If there is sound equipment involved, the sound carries. This is great for the group, but others who just want to be in the building to talk or hang out quietly are turned away. If every event held in the building attracted hundreds of students, this would not be a problem, but when events that attract less than ten dominate the building, this is a problem. When the HCSC becomes operational, it should first work towards ***drafting a programming policy, so that programming ideas can better meet programming needs of students, while also embracing and including other members of the IWU community.***

After achieving this goal, members of this group can keep their places on the HCSC and be a resource when it comes to making decisions on implementing the programming policy that is drafted, being consulted on issues where student opinions are needed (particularly those involving the Bookstore, Hattier's and Tommy's), and being a sounding board, as this building is still new.

There are additional minor areas of concern that have been raised because of what seems to be an excited and dedicated effort to get the building operational early in Spring, 2002. The decorating of the HSC has been contingent upon the approval of the President and Vice-President of the Student Senate, in cooperation with the Vice-President of

Business and Finance. It has been done largely on a piece-by-piece basis. ***Rather than periodically putting furniture and decorative pieces in the HSC, there should be a concerted effort by the University to find someone with a background in interior decorating to work alongside students in establishing a theme for each area.***

Other areas of concern are the hours of the building as a whole, including possible hours of access for members of the Student Senate Executive Board and the leaders of other RSOs, as well as the alcohol policy. The HCSC can assist in gathering student opinion and offering guidance in these areas as well. ***Therefore, it is our recommendation that (1) the HCSC be an ongoing committee, (2) the University work with the Student Senate Vice President and leaders of different RSOs on a year-by-year basis to ensure that the committee remains operational, and (3) the University make a habit out of adopting the committee's recommendations.***

## **Student Friendliness**

Aesthetics are not the only part of attracting students to the HSC; such a goal also includes important aspects such as furniture in the building and how well it encourages the type of atmosphere the HSC was supposed to have. The set up of furniture is an important detail, because the comfort, or lack thereof, largely impacts how student friendly the environment is at the HSC.

The furniture currently in the HSC is attractive and inviting, but the major problem is that there is not enough of it. On an average day, the following furniture can be found on the Center Court:

- ☞ Three clusters of furniture, including one or two couches, a coffee table, and a few easy chairs in each
  
- ☞ Five easy chairs with foot rests, located against the West windows
  
- ☞ Six small coffee tables with two hard back chairs each, on the East side of  $\geq$ Center Court, $\leq$  in front of Hattierπs

This seating serves us fairly well, but problems arise when students tend not to sit on the clusters of furniture if other students are present with whom they are not well acquainted. The remaining furniture includes two easy chairs that are directly in sunlight in the afternoon and numerous tables that are situated near high traffic areas, such as the front door, by Hattierπs, and near the entrance of the bookstore. We feel that there is ample space in  $\geq$ Center Court $\leq$  for additional furniture, so that all students may be accommodated, without cluttering up the building. Additionally, we understand that the university has found a potential donor for additional furniture and therefore *recommend that the University act immediately in pursuing funds that will help in purchasing the additional furniture necessary to make the HSC a vital center for daily student life.*

## Closing Hours

The last major area of concern in the HSC is the closing hours of the two food service vendors in the building. During the spring 2002 semester, these services were not getting as much traffic as some anticipated, and the opening hours of both Tommyπs and Hattierπs were reduced to 10:00pm (down from 11:00pm and midnight respectively).

Food service director Mike d'Angelo told students the closing hours were due to insufficient sales during the evening hours. After talking it over within the Hansen Center Building Committee, the group agreed that, while cost effective measures were being taken, with the new school year, there would be a re-evaluation. The re-evaluation would take place because students would need time to get used to options outside of the food service vendors in the Memorial Center, like the Dugout, which closes at 11:00pm, and the Coffee Shop, which closes at midnight.

As we anticipated, usage has increased. As usage has increased, however, the food service vendors have not returned to their original closing hours. This has led to an overall decrease in usage, as students' needs are being more fulfilled by the services in the Memorial Center. Sodexo's corporate offices have told us repeatedly that the sales do not warrant keeping the building open later, yet they are using outdated data and are not taking into consideration that, by remaining open later, they would encourage more late evening business. ***In order to make the HSC competitive with the Memorial Center, Tommy's and Hattie's must be open at least as late as the Coffee Shop and Dugout, if not later.***

#### Campus Sustainability:

IWU has recently become a much greener place. With the formation of the Green Task Force (GTF), followed by the permanent Committee for a Sustainable Campus (CSC), and the implementation of a new campus-recycling program, the campus should be proud. However, the SPC is still very concerned, for there remains much to be done.

# Reductions in Consumption

Our campus uses large amounts of resources to fulfill its needs. Specific changes could largely reduce these amounts, save money, and lessen our impact on the environment. For example, there is an urgent need for new boilers at Physical Plant, as the current boilers were installed in 1966 and 1974. In a report drafted by the GTF, the boilers are addressed: ≥Due to their age, replacement parts are becoming almost impossible to obtain. Replacing the out-dated boilers with smaller, more efficient models would be pragmatic, financially sound, and environmentally beneficial.≤[\[11\]](#) In addition to reducing energy consumption, the University must also act to reduce the consumption of paper and water, as well as the use of toxic substances. Thus, we recommend the following to accomplish these goals:

- (1) The replacement of the current boilers with more energy efficient ones.*
- (2) The use of T8 lighting as opposed to T12 lighting.*
- (3) The incorporation of the LED design into all exit signs.*
- (4) Enable the energy saving features on all computers, as indicated by chapter four of the IWU Energy Assessment (e.g. use of the standby feature, turn them off when not in use, etc.).*[\[12\]](#)
- (5) The use of only low-volatility paints, cleaners, and floor strippers.*
- (6) The reduction of pesticides and fertilizers used on campus grasses and sports fields.*
- (7) The increased purchase of recycled products.*
- (8) Encourage faculty to specify that all student assignments be submitted double-sided.*

# Hiring Procedure

A number of areas of the campus have immense impacts on the environment, most notably with the purchase of paper and technological equipment, as well as the education of the student body. Therefore, environmentally conscious and proactive employees would prove extremely beneficial to the University. An excellent example is that of Mike dπangelo, general manager of Hansen Center Sodexho food services. Before the opening of the Hansen Center, dπangelo was given the task of choosing a coffee company whose coffee would be sold at Hattierπs. He wanted a coffee that stood for something more than simply taste. Consequently, dπangelo chose to partner with Seattleπs Best Coffee, a coffee company committed to the environment. He willingly sells only fresh organic, shade-grown coffee, meaning it is free of pesticides and herbicides and grown in the midst of rainforests, thereby preserving invaluable habitats. The coffee is also fair trade, which means that farmers are paid fair wages for the product, thereby helping international economies.

Although these environmental options are slightly more expensive, dπangelo believes the educational benefits and the preservation of the ecosystem pay for themselves. Not only has the coffee served students during late night cramming sessions, but, by promoting an environmental consciousness within the IWU community, it has led to an increased intellectual atmosphere on campus. In addition, by exemplifying IWUπs commitment to the environment, this has a positive effect outside of the community. We would like to see more examples like this, throughout all areas of our campus. We

therefore *recommend that, upon hiring new faculty/staff, the environmental awareness of each applicant be considered.*

## Dining Services

Sodexo has made great improvements on its impact to the environment. Recently, their efforts were noted in the November Dumpster Dive and we would like to commend them for these efforts. Sodexo achieved a significantly higher recycling rate than was noted in the previous year, correctly disposing of their recycled products as well. However, as an enormous entity on our campus with regards to campus waste, there is always room for improvement. Hence, we recommend that Sodexo explore and implement the following suggestions:

- (1) Alternatives to plastics and Styrofoam.*
- (2) An organic food selection at the Bertholf Commons.*
- (3) A joint partnership with Illinois State University to compost our food waste.*

## Future Building Plans

We implore the University to incorporate only sustainable designs into all future building projects. As an example, the mahogany wood of the Ames Library comes from a slow-growing tropical tree that cannot be harvested on a sustainable basis. By purchasing this wood, Illinois Wesleyan has contributed to tropical deforestation. With regards to energy, geothermal is the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective space conditioning system available.<sup>[13]</sup> Not only would geothermal energy be good for the environment, it would be an excellent marketing tool for the University, highlighting our environmental awareness to the world.

The benefits of sustainable design are abundant. Oberlin College is currently using sustainable design not only to protect the planet, but also to promote itself. As a

small, liberal arts university much like IWU, Oberlin has received national acclaim for its new science center, which incorporates sustainability into its design. Provost Janet McNew has recently stated that due to the worsening economy, the IWU Master Plan will not be acted upon as soon as had been hoped. We believe this downtime provides a wonderful opportunity for the University to incorporate sustainable designs into its future plans. We believe IWU can and should be a leader in this field, and therefore recommend:

***(1) Only certified materials harvested or manufactured on a sustainable basis be considered in all future building plans.***

***(2) The installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems in all new buildings.***

## **Priorities**

We believe it is evident that, given the tremendous support for all environmental matters and the overwhelming attendance of GTF and CSC meetings, the majority of students, staff, and faculty members are committed to the environment. However, as evidenced by the recent dumpster dive, which showed a 0% recycling rate among the residence halls, it is clear that much work still needs to be done. Therefore, we believe a Director of Environmental Affairs is essential to the future of an environmentally aware campus.

This Director of Environmental Affairs would act as a facilitator of all campus environmental efforts and issues, thereby assuring the implementation of all environmental benefits to our campus. In addition, given the full-time commitments already held by the faculty and student members of the CSC, a full-time staff position is necessary to carry out the goals.

Also, with much of the work of assessing the current state of the campus already completed by two environmental courses and the GTF, we believe these reports should not be ignored. A Director of Environmental Affairs would ensure that they are not. These reports not only contain extremely valuable recommendations to lessen the University's environmental impact, but they also provide information that could save an estimated \$272,000 annually. We therefore recommend that Illinois Wesleyan make the following suggestions a top priority:

*(1) A full-time environmental coordinator must be incorporated into the future plans of the University.*

*(2) The University must adopt the recommendations outlined within the Greening the Campus Report, the IWU Energy Assessment, and the Green Task Force Final Report, in addition to those contained within this report.*

Understandably, the numerous recommendations in this report will no doubt take a tremendous amount of time and effort. We understand that it is not an overnight process, however, we believe there is potential to make huge positive changes on our campus. In conclusion, *the SPC would like to see the University become a more proactive leader in environmental sustainability.*

#### Financial Aid and University Tuition:

A high concern for students is the rising cost of a college education. IWU's percentage of increase of tuition has been higher than the National Average of Private Colleges since 1990-91. In 2003-04, the Comprehensive Fee Increase will be the highest in the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM), rising high above the ACM average and outpacing the increases of St. Olaf, Augustana, Macalester, Carleton, Grinnell, and Lawrence.<sup>[14]</sup> In the Midwest, the College Board reports that the average fee for tuition for a four-year private college in 2002-03 is \$17,225. IWU's annual tuition alone for 2002-03 was \$22,900, already more than \$5,000 above the average without factoring in room and board.<sup>[15]</sup>

## **Tuition Cap**

Students have already experienced a \$2000.00 tuition increase from 2001-02 and are preparing for another increase of 6.25% for the 2003-04 school year. We understand the University's rationale for the raise in tuition and even grant that a single increase in tuition of this magnitude might pass without causing concern amongst the student body. However, given the history of rising tuition, the current state of the economy, and the proposed percentage increase in the Budget Model presented at the October, 2002 Board of Trustees meeting (proposed increases of \$2,000 through 2005), students are becoming concerned with their ability to afford the education provided at IWU.

These figures are released at the Board of Trustees meeting every fall, but, for some reason, the planned increase is not presented to the students and parents who are deciding if they can afford or continue to afford IWU. According to the budget presented on October 21, 2002, tuition increases are planned for the next four years. If this information is presented to different University personnel, why should it not also be presented to students and their families? After all, it seems only fair that, given our already high and continuously rising costs, incoming students ought to know what they will be paying over four years and current students ought to know what to expect for their remaining years. To that end, *we recommend that the University establish a tuition cap for each incoming class, whereby either one amount would be established for each class to pay each of their four years or four year projections would be given to each incoming class, but regardless, students will be aware of what they will be paying throughout their years at IWU.*

## **Outside Scholarships**

According to Director of Financial Aid Lynn Nicholson, University policy dictates that outside scholarships can affect a student's financial aid package.<sup>[16]</sup> This policy forces students to accept the University's offer of more loans when students come in with financial need, despite the fact that the student may qualify for outside aid. Once a student receives an outside scholarship, it is reported to Financial Aid, and their scholarship and aid money is re-evaluated, often resulting in a loss of University money. Therefore, students who are motivated and academically qualified to receive aid from other sources are actually penalized for finding it and forced to accept loans, as opposed to outside scholarships, to cover additional expenses.

Rather than discouraging scholarships, the University should make a commitment to providing assistance in locating scholarships and opportunities for students. Currently, in order to encourage students to continue their education, IWU professors take it upon themselves to locate scholarships that students are academically qualified for. While we feel that it is admirable that faculty make extra efforts to assist students in their scholarship searches, we feel that having a centralized place for locating scholarship opportunities should be the responsibility of Financial Aid. Keeping this in mind, *SPC recommends (1) that the University alter the policy that adjusts student aid packages when a student receives an outside scholarship and (2) that, in order to encourage students to locate funds outside the University, a part-time Scholarship Coordinator be hired or appointed under the Office of Financial Aid.*

## Communication

The scholarship issue illustrates what students feel is the largest problem in dealing with Financial Aid; communication with the office. Students are rarely in the office for any reason other than to request more aid and numerous students interviewed cited incorrect bills that had never been changed, not even upon request, as well as instances of billing students for certain services that they did not request (such as insurance).[\[17\]](#) In addition, financial aid packages, particularly for sophomores, are often sent out just weeks before school resumes, leaving little time for families to evaluate their current financial situation. Therefore, *we recommend that the Office of Financial Aid take steps to increase communication between the office and students and their families.*

#### Faculty Evaluations:

At the March, 2002 faculty meeting, a motion was made that insulted students. The motion would have eliminated the use of student evaluations in the process of promotion and tenure. Thankfully, the motion was tabled for a month, thus giving students a chance to react. A letter from former Student Senate President Greg Adamo appeared in the Argus, informing students of the motion and voicing his concerns. Then, in a special session of Student Senate, resolution 2002-1 was passed. The resolution acknowledged the faults of the current system of student evaluations of the faculty, but indicated, and we would like to reiterate here, that *(1) ≥direct viewing of student evaluations by members of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, when deemed necessary, is an integral part of a liberal education of high quality≤ and (2) ≥a committee of students, faculty, and administrators should work towards addressing the current concerns regarding the use of student evaluations of faculty in the promotion*

*and tenure process and that this same committee shall periodically review the process.*<sup>[18]</sup>

The Resolution was read into the faculty minutes and the motion failed on the faculty floor, but the university is still in the process of revising the system. This is a process that, to date, students have not been invited to join. In the event that a new process is created, which is deemed unfavorable to students and/or has included little student input, *we recommend that the current leaders of Student Senate create an independent system of student evaluations of faculty members, similar to Harvard's Q Report and others like it.* We understand that this will be a large undertaking, but we feel that it would be in the best interests of students in general.

#### Academic Building Hours:

In response to numerous questions about the possibility of keeping the certain academic buildings open later than they currently are, the SPC conducted a survey during registration for the spring, 2003 semester. Out of 100 respondents, 67% indicated that they study between the hours of 11:00pm and 3:00am and the majority indicated that they feel most comfortable studying in the Ames Library (68%) or the Center for Natural Sciences (15%).<sup>[19]</sup> Therefore, we have elected to focus the crux of this portion of the report on those two buildings and the need to keep them open later into the evening.

## **The Ames Library**

Currently, on a typical weeknight, the Ames Library closes at 1:30am. Even during finals week, the library maintains these hours. Unfortunately, given the results of

the survey, many students have not even begun to study until 1:00am.[\[20\]](#) If they study best in the Ames Library, which the survey indicates that they do, then that leaves them with thirty minutes of study time. Given that it is not the University's place to dictate when and where students study, *our first recommendation is that the entire Ames Library be kept open until at least 3:00am.*[\[21\]](#)

In addition, in what was by far the greatest majority of the survey, 73% indicated that 24-hour access to the main floor of the Ames Library would better suit their academic needs. The main floor of the library has numerous computer modules, as well as access to reference materials, tables and rooms for group study, and plenty of space for individual study.

If a 24-hour access to the library is given a trial period, it is necessary that it last for at least one semester, as students' habits take time to adapt.[\[22\]](#) To that end, *we recommend that the main floor of the Ames Library be kept open 24 hours a day during a trial period that will last no less than one semester and, at the end of that trial run, the University will evaluate the effectiveness and necessity of continuing the trend.*

## **The Center for Natural Sciences**

Well over one-third of the respondents were science or math majors, both disciplines that involve the use of the Center for Natural Sciences (CNS).[\[23\]](#) We do not feel that this is by accident, as two-thirds of respondents indicated that they would like to see a building, other than the Ames Library, be kept open later than it currently is and nearly two-thirds of the respondents indicated that that building contained resources

necessary to complete the work assigned in their major. Of the three choices given, the vast majority of students (44%), indicated that CNS was the building that they would like to see kept open later.

Currently, CNS is open until midnight; however, only 12% of respondents indicated that this was an ideal time for them. While 7% indicated that they do not even need it open that late, 64% indicated that they felt they would utilize it until much later.<sup>[24]</sup> The majority of these respondents indicated that 2:00am, an additional two hours of study time, would be ideal. Given that, right now, according to the survey 67% of students study between the hours of 11:00pm and 3:00am, a majority of students only have one hour of quality study time in the CNS and that the resources in the building seem to be necessary to complete the work assigned them, we recommend that *the CNS be kept open until at least 2:00am.*

## Security Issues

We understand that, in order for these changes to go into effect, security forces will have to be increased and that, given the economy, this will be difficult to implement. However, since this is an academic institution and thus academics ought to be both a student and a University priority, this is a change that absolutely must happen. If the University is concerned about vandals in the buildings, then perhaps a card-swipe system, badly needed across the campus, could be considered as an alternative than to simply keeping the buildings unlocked. Regardless, however, these measures are desperately needed across campus and *the University should act in haste in seeing that they are implemented.*

## Conclusion

It is our sincere hope that the recommendations contained within this report will be thoroughly evaluated in the coming years. Student Senate leaders will always be happy to discuss them and act in cooperation in their implementation or revision. Please keep in mind that no section of this report was created out of personal priority, but rather our understanding of campus-wide concerns.

As a concluding thought, as President of the Student Senate and chair of the SPC, I would like to enclose a note of thanks to the members of SPC who worked diligently in preparing their individual portions of this report. Their work deserves to be not only appreciation, but also serious consideration. The research is thorough, documented, and well prepared. The students and various constituencies of this University owe them a debt of gratitude.

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[1] The concern stated that, ≥Due in part to the many recent changes in leadership, along with gaps in communication, the sense of shared vision for the University among faculty, staff, and administration is weak (*Summary and Principal Finding: Draft of 8/12/02, NCAC Reaccreditation Self-Study 2001-03*).

[2] Interview conducted by author on November 12, 2002.

[3] Data is taken as a part of Health Servicesπ *Total Census: September 2001-April 2002*.

[4] This is prevalent in two surveys: (1) UCLA, *Your First College Year*, 2001-02 and (2) *The College Students Survey*, taken by 1999-2002 graduates. Both indicated a statistically significant difference in menπs and womenπs opinions of Health Services.

[5] This is according to Director of Residential Life, Matthew Damschroeder, in a letter to the author, written on October 9, 2002.

[6] This is according to an anonymous IWU student, in a letter to the author, written on November 4, 2002.

[7] Tour and interview granted to author, by residents of DeMotte Hall, on November 6, 2002.

[8] Information is based upon statistics gathered from the Registrar's Office, the OMA, and the 2000 U.S. Census

[9] The Hansen Center Building Committee met bi-weekly during the HSC's initial semester of operation. The committee, composed of Student Senate President John Rapp, Student Senate Vice-President Kristin Gregory, and managers of the IWU Bookstore and Tommy's, as well as the Director of Student Activities and the Director of Facilities Use, all of which are housed in the HSC, discussed initial problems related to the HSC. Unfortunately, SPC does not feel that this is the ideal committee for determining student needs in the HSC because it lacks adequate student input.

[10] Hansen Center Building Committee, meeting of March, 19, 2002.

[11] *Illinois Wesleyan University Energy Assessment: A Guide to Campus Energy Use and Suggestions for Improvement*. A report by the students of the Environmental Studies Experiential Learning Seminar (fall, 2001), pg. 12.

[12] Ibid, 26-39.

[13] Ibid, 12-14.

[14] *Tuition and Fees: 2003-2004 Tentative Proposal*, Illinois Wesleyan University's Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees report for October, 2002.

[15] *Trends in College Pricing 2002*, The College Board.

[16] Interview conducted by author on Friday, November 8, 2002.

[17] Concerns received via e-mail by the author throughout the writing of this report.

[18] Taken directly from Resolution 2002-1, passed at a special session of the Student Senate, March 26, 2002.

[19] The other obvious break in the data was the 8% of respondents that indicated that they feel most comfortable studying in the professional school buildings (i.e. Presser Hall). Additionally, 17% of students indicated that they would like to see these buildings remain open later. However, given that Ames and CNS were the obvious majority, we elected to focus just on them.

[20] 23% of the 67% who claimed they study best between 11:00pm and 3:00am reported that they did not begin studying until 1:00am.

[21] We do not mean to suggest that these hours remain even during summer months, just during the three academic semesters; fall, spring, and May Term.

[22] This was made very obvious by the opening of the Hansen Student Center, which is discussed earlier in this report.

[23] The breakdown is as follows: Biology ≠ 18%, Chemistry ≠ 2%, Computer Science ≠ 3%, Physics ≠ 3%, Psychology ≠ 7%, Mathematics ≠ 5%, and a combination of scientific disciplines ≠ 2%.

[24] The 64% was divided as follows: 1:00am ≠ 23%, 2:00am ≠ 33%, and 3:00am ≠ 8%.