



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

2008 Student Affairs Assessment Project

CAS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housing and Residential Life

Scope of Review

The scope of this review was to assess the Housing and Residential Life, a department in the division of Student Affairs.

Mission

The mission of Housing and Residential Life is to provide safe, affordable, and well-maintained housing facilities which foster and support programs and services that promote academic success and personal development in the residential population.

Assessment Process

I. Housing and Residential Life was evaluated by using the criteria established by the Council for The Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education. The Internal Review Team identified the types of documentary evidence that would need to be compiled, and reviewed the criteria and evidence collectively, and then assigned a numerical value after consensus was reached for each item. Next, the External Review Team completed an independent review of the CAS instrument and the documentary evidence, and then provided a written review of their findings.

II. Identified strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

- The mission is aligned with the Student Affairs and University missions.
- Resident programming is purposeful and centers around four core concepts: citizenship, relationship, leadership and scholarship.
- The department has strong leadership and has identified an action plan through which to finalize a multi-year strategic plan.
- Student employees have a thorough training program which emphasizes ethics and diversity.
- The unit maintains strong campus and external relationships.

Weaknesses:

- Resident program evaluation is weak and must be improved.
- Limited physical space impacts the range of scope of resident programming and storage space.
- Additional specialized training opportunities can be identified and implemented for both professional and para-professional staff.
- Financial tracking and reporting lacks consistency in regards to monthly reports, as opposed to mid-year and year-end reports.
- Data collection and other assessment activities promoting the collection and evaluation of qualitative and quantitative data is needed. Information gathered through these processes needs to be placed to then be implemented in a timely manner.

Priorities for the Program

1. Improve financial tracking of expenditures, budget reconciliation reports, and rent and debt collection.
2. Adjust and expand resident programming, specifically in the area of educational and academic support.
3. Improve assessment and evaluation activities relating to programming.
4. Identify professional development opportunities for staff.
5. Continue to adapt department advertising and marketing needs to meet changing student demographics and campus enrollment targets.