

Notes from Wednesday, November 16th meeting of

“Making Housing and Dining Affordable”

Chairman: John Beacon

- We looked back ten years and compared how the cost of room and board have charged compared against the CPI during this same time period, and we examined the amount of reserves being held annually for repair and maintenance .
- We took a look at the current debt service and the anticipated increase in debt service over the next ten year in light of plans to renovate and add new residence space on campus.
- We looked at current and potential residence construction projects over the next decade and the impact of those projects on the debt and operating budgets
- We discussed current utility costs along with projected increases over time. Duke has recently announced plans that could see a double-digit increase in the next year, which will need to be factored into costs.
- We discussed SODEXO’s costs and student demand on Sycamore Towers dining. The kitchen in that facility is also in need of a heating and cooling upgrade. We have also looked at equipment replacement in some of the kitchens as some equipment has outlived its useful lives.
- We are taking a critical look at current staffing and anticipated needs. Adjustments have already been made to maintenance, and if further changes are considered, issues of cleanliness and appearance of facilities will need to be addressed. The role of Academic Program Assistants has changes this year as these student employees have taken on greater responsibilities related to retention efforts.
- Finally, we need to think unconventionally and consider new initiatives untried on this campus. Topics worth considering include co-op housing, outsourcing services, and charging dramatically different room rates based on amenities.