“East side recycling could use some improvement! The recycling bins in the laundry room (at least in Larkspur) aren’t used correctly and fill up very quickly. We want to recycle, but oftentimes the bins are unusable.”

The Department of Residence Life (DRL) continues to strongly support campus recycling programs & efforts. Recycling is available in each apt. laundry room, & in resident hall trash/recycling rooms & stations. However, many students have elected to irresponsibly utilize the laundry receptacles (dumpsters) provided. DRL staff currently checks these facilities & empty trash/recycling bins on a daily basis. DRL relishes any partnership with concerned & committed students actively looking to practice recycling, while helping to educate other students on rationale & proper methods. Recycling info is available on the DRL website, flyers, & magnets. We’re certainly open to expanding promotion of this issue further.

See something do something. We are all part of a community and should chip in.

“It would be great if there could be more decorations around housing and campus for all of the holidays throughout the school year.”

It is unclear from this comment what students may be looking for in regards to specific holiday decorations. DRL currently utilizes bulletin boards to promote awareness of major holiday celebrations & annual “themed seasons.” Historically, HCOM has been decorated with holiday tree & lights from Thanksgiving through the first of new year. Students with other ideas regarding specific types of decoration for respective holidays are always welcome to make contact with DRL staff to discuss options.

“Students living in the South end of LRH can be fined $25 if they use the back door. I think an iCard swiper should be placed there to make life a little bit easier for students at the opposite end of the main entrances. FRH has an accessible right across the sidewalk but LRH students have to pay to use a door.”

From a safety & security standpoint, these doors at ends of hallways & stairwells were specifically designed & designated as fire exit-only doors. In fact, they were audibly alarmed during LRH’s first years of operation. They have never been intended fo the sole purpose of convenience. The current fine is for non-compliance, not a fee granting permission to use these doors. The rear entrance door at FRH was specifically designed and installed as ADA access point for residents of those nearby rooms at the end of the corridor. This is why the card reader/access pad only functions for those members of the community. In today’s heightened environment of safety & security, DRL believes this continued course of action in both buildings to be most prudent.
“I would personally love it if TRAC could be somehow open later at night. That and I'm a night owl. I remember people expressing that was what they missed about the 2 Central work out area in LRH, being able to go there at random times.”

TRAC is open until 11pm Sunday through Thursday and open until 8pm on Friday and Saturday. In the spring of 2013, hours of operation were adjusted and TRAC closed at 11pm seven nights each week. However, statistics from the spring semester showed there was very little use in TRAC after 8pm on Friday and Saturday, generally during these times, there would be more staff in TRAC than patrons. This fall, operation hours were adjusted back to an 8pm closing time on Friday and Saturday. The operation hours Sunday through Thursday have been in place since TRAC opened in September 2007.

In addition, it is a state law that a facility such as TRAC, must have CPR/AED certified staff on duty at all times it is open for use. With that said, usage statistics between 10pm & 11pm Sunday through Thursday would not support the increased costs associated with extending operating hours of TRAC.

“There needs to be more vending machines around campus. As a resident of Larkspur court, I am unable to access them after HCOM closes. When I am doing papers until late at night I need caffeine to focus, but I cannot access any nearby as a resident of Larkspur. This is frustrating because the other courts have the vending machines located in their laundry rooms, where they can access them 24/7. I think a vending machine for pop should be put in Larkspur's laundry room, so students can have equal access like everyone else does across campus.”

Vending is a contracted service available in many public spaces around campus, as well as select spaces in residence halls or laundry rooms in apt. areas. The addition, subtraction or relocation of machines will trigger discussions with the campus provider & could necessitate a costly change to the contract. Larkspur is the smallest laundry room on-campus. Accommodating a request for an additional machine would likely mean removal of a washer or dryer already there. A potential solution regarding after hours/late evening access to vending is to allow students of courts to visit different laundry areas. The expense of changing door locks whereby any student living in Clover, Larkspur and Bluebell could operate the laundry room door is reasonably manageable, without any cost being passed on to the student. However, residents must recognize that this option also gives any resident of all 3 courts rights of access to each other’s laundry facilities, possibly impacting usage rates & wait times accordingly.

“When will the cooks at the grille be on the next great chef? Granted they can't even fry pre-cooked food.”

Food Service’s Response-“Our cooks are all Union professionals. Most of them have many years of cooking experience. If there is ever an occasion when your food is not cooked to your satisfaction, please bring to the attention of the manager on duty and we will gladly do whatever we can to rectify the situation.”
“Does non-smoking mean you don't smoke? I thought by checking it on my form it meant that I would not have to live in a smoke filled house? Please let me know why this is ignored, housing sure doesn't have a problem taking my money just my requests.”

&

“Why is it ok for housing to put a smoker with 3 nonsmokers who are sick because of the one roommate? It would be nice if housing cared for your health and actually read your housing forms. Also, if the Resident assistants aren’t willing to help get rid of them, simple as that. I know you want my money each semester but the service being provided is of low quality.”

DRL relies on students to accurately & honestly portray their use/non-use of tobacco products on their original housing application. Initial assignments are based on what people report, although a late applicant will certainly have far fewer options to possibly escape from living with smokers or those who may possess other habits some find less-appealing qualities in room/housemates. We also recognize that habits & perspectives can change over time. If a room/housemates is smoking indoors & causing “a smoke-filled house” or has tampered with fire safety or smoke detector equipment, DRL staff needs to be immediately informed of such alleged violations to housing regulations, campus policy, & state law.

*Ask and find out if students would want a section like 260 buildings for non-smokers etc.

“Why do RD’s ignore request, cancel the day of a meeting, and refuse to meet with you because they book appointments over you? It would be nice if I was getting the service I am paying for.”

Something may legitimately come-up which requires an RD’s immediate attention & cancelling or re-scheduling a meeting with a particular student. We hope this would be an infrequent occurrence, with efforts made by the RD to contact that student with as much notice as possible. RD staff would probably state unequivocally that the more likely scenario is that residents are apt to ignore their request to meet than RD’s may be to cancel meetings. However, DRL senior staff strongly encourages any resident so impacted to contact one of them to conduct a supervisory conversation with RD as may be necessary.

“Housing seems more of a business than a student driven department. Some of the practices done as well as lack of communication between housing and students and department disorganization are outrageous. I thought the (almost) all new staff would change things but it's a lot of the same.”

In fact, we are. As a full-fledged university Auxiliary operation, we administratively function on revenues derived from student rents & rentals of housing facilities by academic & other campus units. Due to the relative newness of most of our residential buildings, & associated debt service of construction spread over 30-35 years, DRL is already financially leveraged beyond what most banking institutions would consider reasonable. That financial burden currently constitutes approximately 64% of operational revenues, leaving little latitude for being anything but cost-conscious in our business decisions. We also
recognize that we must remain competitive with off-campus landlords, as we near a price-point sensitivity in student housing selections.

“UIS isn't very green. What if we got 5 or 10 cents off every time we used a reusable cup, even if it wasn't the official one?”

Food Service’s response: ‘The recycling discount applies to 16 oz. cups. 16 ounces is the size our unit price is based on. The reusable cups sold by Food Serve are 16 oz. It is difficult for our cashiers to know the size of reusable cups that aren’t purchased by Food Service. Food Service sells their reusable cups at cost.

“TRAC needs to update their group exercise schedule online so more students can access accurate information. I showed up at 7am and the class was the day prior.”

The Group Fitness class schedule is up to date on our website and at all locations in TRAC. It was updated on September 9th, 2013 at all locations when an adjustment was made to the original schedule due to a scheduling conflict for an instructor.

“I recently got food poisoning from Founder's Grille and I know that I'm not the only one. Perhaps something can be done about the low-quality food that we are getting on campus.”

Food Service Response: ‘We take every measure to insure that all food purchased, stored and prepared in the safest manner possible. If there is ever an occasion when you feel that the food prepared by Food Service has resulted in an illness, please inform the Director of Food Service as soon as possible. We buy the highest quality products available, and take great care in the preparation and presentation of each menu item.’

“TRAC should have an inversion table.”

Rec Sports has conducted research about this type of equipment. This table is used to provide physical therapy to individuals with chronic back issues. It is recommended that this product is used in connection with an individual who is qualified to provide physical therapy and is not recommended for use by lone individuals. Rec Sports does not employ physical therapists or personnel qualified to work with individuals using an inversion table. Purchasing an inversion table and making it available for general use is major liability for the department and the University.
“I know in LRH when beds are lofted, they are right next to a sprinkler. I have accidentally touched this sprinkler a few times by accident, and I get really nervous when I do. I suggest installing cages over these sprinklers so kids don't have to feel like they are going to set off a sprinkler when they are going to bed.”

DRL can certainly research the viability of purchasing & installing some sort of protective covers over sprinkler heads in LRH/FRH. Such a project would likely be undertaken during the summer, rather than attempt to install during the school year when the buildings are full. A more cost-effective alternative would be to look at different room arrangements which do not place the loft directly under a room sprinkler head.

“WE NEED A POOL”

Although a natatorium/pool is a part of the master plan for TRAC, Rec Sports currently does not have a sufficient budget to construct and manage (due to annual operating costs) a natatorium. The SGA Administrative Affairs Committee advises constituents to reference the Master Plan, a document continuously reviewed as the UIS community grows in efforts to effectively utilize acreage and building space. This Master Plan includes the installation of a pool on The Recreation and Athletics Center (TRAC) when funding permits. This request was reviewed in committee and forwarded to Mr. Dave Barrows, Associate Chancellor for Administrative Affairs and Executive Director of Facilities and Services. In the original construction of The Recreation and Athletics Center (TRAC), a swimming pool was planned for south of the current locker rooms. To solve this “99 problem”, the institution will need to secure three million dollars for construction. A swimming pool will be installed, eventually, as the institution continues to grow.

“WE NEED NEW HOUSING, BECAUSE THERE IS AN INCREASE OF STUDENTS WHO LIVE ON CAMPUS EACH YEAR.”

On the contrary, this is the first year that DRL, has seen a measureable increase in occupancy since 2009. Yes, UIS has seen an increase in students, but campus housing has not been full during that corresponding period. The development and construction of any new structure, or renovation to existing structures, requires extensive planning, funding, & multiple consecutive years of demonstrated high occupancy. New construction costs can place students living on campus at disadvantage due to a great disparity between living on and living off. DRL, in consultation with campus Administration, Student Affairs staff, and other Enrollment Management colleagues, is involved in forecasting student projections & on campus housing needs for future years. We will certainly take this suggestion under consideration as a department master plan is considered & ultimately created.
“What ever happened to Mary Jane's? Is that just going to remain closed or can we reopen it? Otherwise what is the plan for that space downstairs in the library?”

Mary Jane’s was closed for financial reasons and will not be reopening. The space it once occupied belongs to the library. Food Service is not involved with any future planning for the space.

“Each dorm room, apartment and townhouse should have a one page laminated sheet on the wall somewhere listing all the useful campus/university contact numbers. It can be hard to know who to call for what problem and not everyone has a computer.”

DRL has discussed creation of an updated contact listing to be provided in every LRH/FRH student room, perhaps as a door hanger, or in conjunction with hotel-like back-of-door emergency egress info provided as well. Also see sample “Important Phone Numbers” refrigerator magnet for apts./townhouses, last produced by RHA/HRC in 2008. There are probably negligible cost concerns associated with design, manufacture, distribution, & on-going maintenance of such a project. Challenges include which campus numbers to include, size of display, & replacement of signage removed by residents for one reason or another. Perhaps DRL could investigate several print, laminate, magnet, cable channel, digital signage, or other options which could be implemented for convenience of residents.

“The grill is the most popular food service. It should be enlarged so you don't have to stand in line 20 minutes to get a burger.”

The grill located in the Food Emporium is our most popular station. We understand that there can be long lines at peak times. Unfortunately, there is the no practical way to enrage the grill at this time.

“There is a lack of training from the cooks in the food emporium and founder's grill leading to people getting sick from under prepared food.”

Food Service Response: ‘Again, our cooks are Union professionals with many years of experience. Every book goes through a Department training program when hired and is periodically evaluated on their job performance. If there is found to be an area where more training is required, they receive additional training and are reevaluated until Department standard are met. If there is ever an occasion when you feel that you have become ill as a result of eating food prepared by Food Service, please contact the Director of Food Service as soon as possible.-Geoffrey Evans-‘

“There has been racist comments said and racist acts against some of the black community in LRH.”
DRL takes such allegations very seriously & deplores any such actions or comments taken by a handful of community members directed against other community members. However, it’s very difficult to adequately address a coordinated response to a generalized statement when insufficient information is provided to combat such acts through on-going education & student development initiatives. We can only investigate & effectively deal with behaviors of which we’ve been made aware, so DRL strongly encourages residents to immediately report such abhorrent instances to staff & or campus police. Beyond further review the situation has been handled.

“Have a puppy program for students to help relieve stress and provide animal interactions while away from home. Many students miss their pets and would love to have a few "campus dogs" to spend time with. Petting a dog is also good for you! Studies have shown people who pet their furry friends each day have lower blood pressure and feel overall calm after an interaction with their pet. This would help students with depression or other mental illnesses.”

Pets or animals on campus present interesting challenges. If this suggestion pertains to whether DRL staff can promote a possible program whereby staff from local animal shelters might bring animals under their care to campus for a short-term visit to relieve stress & alleviate pet homesickness for one’s pet, the answer is yes, that’s something we can investigate & consider. Another potential RA program solution may be partnering with the local animal shelters to allow willing residents to help at the animal shelters, assisting their staff with walking, cleaning cages, baths, washing food/water bowls., training exercises, etc. The shelter may be an excellent source of volunteering to give back to the community and at the same time provide some mental ‘relief’ to students.

On the other hand, if the suggestion pertains to whether DRL could allow pets to actually reside with students, say in a pet therapy living/learning community, that takes the challenges to a significantly higher level. Problems reported by other institutions around the country include cleanliness issues, damage to property, injury to others, allergies, waste disposal issues, noise/disruption and neglect. There would need to be a high level of personal responsibility associated with any such program allowing broader residence of animal beyond fish in a maximum 10-gallon tank. As easily as it may appear to hold animal owners responsible, the question becomes who is responsible for enforcement? Who is responsible for managing any complaints received about said animal, including possible allergic reactions from room/housemates? Will students be responsible for all financial costs associated with an animal (i.e., $2,000 carpet replacements; $1,200 furniture replacement; $1,000 extermination services; $1,600 repainting, etc.)?

“I love this university but the Leadership Lived campaign is horrible for many reasons. I resent the fact that it even exists. This University is bigger than some cheesy slogan and the false image it puts out. The students used in the campaigns all look the same. They are all a part of the same circles, clubs, and classes. The Leadership Lived billboards, videos, and commercials do very little to accurately represent the diversity on this campus. Instead, it force feeds the university and community a prototypical image of a leader. It seems as if making money off of recruitment has become the most important thing to the school.”
The marketing office hired a consulting office that brought students in to give their opinions of the Leadership Lived campaign, and welcomed suggestions as to what could be improved.

“Important events and milestones need to be celebrated and publicized more. Last spring, UIS welcomed its first fraternity. No one celebrated, and there were no publications written or televised on the campus channel. The reason for this is because the ceremony occurred at the same time as mud tug of war. It's saddening to know that a simple tug-a-war game was given preference over such an historical event for this university.”

Students can let The Journal know of these events and take pictures of the event themselves and submit them to be on the Campus Channel and the electronic billboards around campus. They can also contact the schools marketing office in order to inform them of upcoming events. When posting through social media be sure to include #uisEDU as well as tagging the Facebook page in order to further promote such activities and events.

“One of the central components of the constitutional rights that we as American citizens enjoy is the right to free speech, and especially the right to freedom of the press. This is something that is central to newspapers on college campuses across the nation. However, one of the crucial components of public discourse is that a dialogue must have two parties. The Journal's habit of publishing editorials taking stances on issues of controversy to UIS while simply identifying the author as "The Editorial Board" hinders the ability of the UIS community to carry on a discourse on issues that are of great concern to the community as a whole. As any letter to the editor expressing an opinion is published with the name of the author, it should follow that those members of the Journal staff that decide to express their opinion should publish their opinion under their name, so the public discourse can continue with all parties, instead of taking a stance on an issue, and hiding behind the anonymity of the moniker "The Editorial Board". The freedom of the press means that anyone can publish what they wish, but it would be nice to see The Journal have the courage to own their opinions, instead of hiding behind fake names, as is their current practice.”

The Journal replied that “Ashley and Hillary Rikli, Journal Layout and Design Editor/Graduate Assistant, had begun a revamp of The Journal’s editorial page to include each week the names of the Journal Editorial Board on the editorial page. Also included on the editorial page will be the student newspaper’s policies regarding editorials, letters-to-the-editor, and guest commentaries. These policies and the names of the editorial board members have, until now, been included with the names of the entire Journal staff elsewhere in The Journal. For example, they’re found on page 3 of the Dec. 11, 2013, edition of The Journal.

Please know that newspaper editorial boards and the practice of identifying an editorial as the opinion of an editorial board have a long, rich history with our country’s newspapers. For countless number of years, student and professional newspapers have had in place editorial boards to decide the newspapers’ positions on a wide variety of issues. Having a group of individuals discuss and decide what the newspaper should editorialize about allows for much more diverse and robust discussion than having only one newspaper staffer be in charge of all editorials.Newspaper columns, on the other hand, are the
opinions of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect a consensus of a newspaper’s editorial board.

What follows is typically what occurs when newspaper editorial boards discuss and decide positions to take on editorials:

- Editorial board members discuss issues, decide what position the newspaper should take on particular issues, and then decide which editorial board member will write the editorial. (The entire editorial board may not always agree on a position outlined in an editorial.)
- Before an editorial is published, editorial board members often review a draft and make changes before it is published.

Based on what you sent me, it sounds as if the submitter of this concern reads The Journal, and that is excellent! However, I find it curious that he/she thinks that just because an individual name isn’t attached to an editorial, it stymies public discourse.

Far from it! Ashley, like the editors-in-chief before her, consistently includes in The Journal calls for readers to submit letters-to-the-editor and guest commentary.

I hope the above helps raise awareness of how and why Journal editorials are produced in the manner that they are—and that beginning with the Jan. 29, 2014, Journal, readers will see editorial board member names listed on the editorial page, along with polices regarding editorials, letters-to-the-editor, and guest commentaries.

“One of my biggest issues with the campus is the lack of health professionals available. I have been trying to see the doctor since the summer period, but I was informed that:

1. There is only one doctor and no practitioners
2. They only work on at certain times Tuesdays and Thursdays (when I work)
3. Because of issue number 2, they are always booked. If I am ill, I cannot see the health service provider and must go elsewhere in town. A visit to a clinic in town will cost extra money I don’t really have

I am asking for the university to hire more health care providers. It is frustrating to find out that I can’t be seen infuriating when I think about the fee we all pay for a service many of us cannot use.”

This was handled in the distribution of student fees that were decided on in the fall.
“I would also love to see more diversity among the student representatives in the "leadership lived" campaign. It seems that the same, small group of students from specific organizations are always represented in the stories, pictures, and advertisements around campus and beyond. I would love to see a faculty and/or student nomination process to find more featured leaders.”

The marketing office hired a consulting office that brought students in to give their opinions of the Leadership Lived campaign, and welcomed suggestions as to what could be improved.

“SOFA meetings need restructuring... Perhaps set it up so that based on order of submission they get scheduled at 15/20 minute intervals so Org representatives don't have to sit there for some random time between 0 minutes to an hour and a half?”

Emailed Nathan Piper, SOFA Chair, so he would be aware of the issue and potentially make changes.

“boards are too full with notices that do not get taken down when are past”

The Student Life office will now have a student worker go out once a week in order to take down old flyers.

“WE NEED BETTER SPIRIT”

Flyers are up for UIS events, students can buy gear from the bookstore, there are various athletic events, etc. Suggestions should be sent to the marketing office or other appropriate venues i.e.

“The buildings on old campus all look the same. This is confusing, especially new and transfer students along with commuter students who don't live on campus and get around often to a lot of the buildings as those who live on campus. If the mansard or fade part of the roof(where the letters are) were painted different colors, it would be easier to quickly identify the buildings. I.e., you need the career development center, it's the blue one; stars lounge, it's the purple one; ISS, it's the red one; etc.
This could easily become a school spirit raising—‘help decide the new colors of your campus’; ‘vote for your departments new buildings color”

Contacted Dave Barrows about the feasibility of getting this accomplished when it’s warmer. The cost of buying a different color for each building may get pricy, so he will look into having the letters painted one color to make them more visible.
“Some modification to the parking in the Marigold and Trillium lots would be great. As a Res Hall resident I understand that the first two rows of parking are reserved for town house parking and the third and fourth rows of parking are for RH parking. However, the second row of townhouse parking is almost always empty. Just the other day I counted about 28 empty spaces in row 2 with only 11 cars parked there. Row 1 had about 9 empty spaces that those 11 cars could have parked in. I know the parking fluctuates throughout the day but it is pretty evident there are more RH vehicles than townhouse vehicles. If RH people could share that second row of townhouse parking there would still be plenty of parking for townhouse residents. Even if RH were limited to the section of the second row past the dumpsters it would be great.”

Unfortunately, at this time, parking operations and the Administrative Affairs Committee has made their best effort to ensure all participatory parties are satisfied in matters. Recently, Residence Hall parking has been moved from Lot B (on east campus) to the Marigold and Trillium lots. We as a committee believe this to be a substantial improvement over previous conditions, cutting the transit time in half from both Lincoln and Founders Residence Hall to constituents’ vehicles.

In response, Parking Operations has met a middle ground with the Student Government Association and Administrative Affairs Committees. Senator William Newton, attending parking meetings, advocated for the installation of signs that designate “West Campus Housing” parking and “Residence Hall” parking. This will ease the transition for both west campus and residence hall students in the shared lot; before installation, incoming freshman were perplexed as to the lot’s design (“Residence Hall” parking was on the south end, “West Campus” is on the north end). These new light-post mounted signs correspond with campus signage and assist navigation.

“I believe there should be a Mexico flag in PAC along with all the other flags since we have had international students from Mexico.”

This request was reviewed in committee and forwarded to Ms. Sarah Jome in International Student Services (ISS). In an email, ISS stated that “our office just ran a census of those very flags and sent the office in charge of them a list of additional ones that we thought would be appropriate to add - including Mexico. Hopefully there will be a ceremony soon to add the new ones!” After further consultation it has been found these twenty-three additional flags will include Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and The Gambia, among others. Project status is unknown, but the University (unknown department) is “trying to determine how much room there is in the PAC for them” A ceremony will be held shortly after the installation is completed.

"One of the movements I am trying to launch on campus is trying to get a Latino Resource Center to campus. Our projective location would where the current SOC office resides. We would inquire initial funding from local Springfield organizations as well as other departments and programs on campus. This will significantly help the retention rate of our Latino Students and give them a place here at UIS to feel more at home. The employee positions that will need to be filled include Director, Assistant director, and Graduate Assistant"

Dr. Ford said the position will be provided for Coordinator of Programs and Outreach. Question was asked if Latino students receive, then what about African American students, male students? The challenge on UIS’ campus is its size, many large campuses have these centers but also have 40,000 students. Official statement is “In the future, this possibility will be explored as the Hispanic-population grows at UIS” Ethnicities on UIS campus (1) European-American (2) African-American (3) Asian-American (4) Latin-American. Committee, with the resource, would be able to recruit more Latin-
American students. Coordinator of Outreach would serve the short-term goal of Latino-American recruitment.

“We should implement EZH20 water bottle filling stations. It dispenses water vertically, so it is easier to fill up water bottles.”

This request was reviewed in committee and was of great interest. The project was referred to Dave Barrows. Mr. Barrows had not heard of this device before and had no comment at this time. In the Spring 2014 semester, the Administrative Affairs Committee will draft a resolution supporting the installation of EZH20 Water Bottle Filling Stations on pre-existing drinking fountains.

"What ever happened to Mary Jane's? Is that just going to remain closed or can we reopen it? Otherwise what is the plan for that space downstairs in the library?"

Met with Dave Barrows. Mary Jane’s was installed at request of either students or library, but not adequately utilized. We will need to talk to library administration, and will follow up in the Spring

“There needs to be more vending machines around campus. As a resident of Larkspur court, I am unable to access them after HCOM closes. When I am doing papers until late at night I need caffeine to focus, but I cannot access any nearby as a resident of Larkspur. This is frustrating because the other courts have the vending machines located in their laundry rooms, where they can access them 24/7. I think a vending machine for pop should be put in Larkspur's laundry room, so students can have equal access like everyone else does across campus.”

This request was reviewed in committee and forwarded to Mr. John Ringle, Director of Residence Life. Larkspur Court has the smallest laundry room on campus. Being the smallest, it is difficult and unsafe (in case of a fire) to install vending machines in the housing unit. Also, campus vending machines require a dedicated iCard line which means one of the washer/dryer units would have to be removed.

"I would like to propose that something be done about how incredibly expensive the food is here on campus. I just started checking the screen on the registers at PAC and the Grille. I am more tolerant of the PAC prices because they are full meals, but at the Grille a simple ham and lettuce sandwich is a little over $6.00! I often get a sandwich at the Grille because it is one of the healthiest things on the menu there, but after seeing the price, I hold back on it. Also, the chicken tenders cost a little over $4.00? There are several things on the menu that are just outrageous in price. If the food wasn’t so expensive, the meal plans would not have to be so much, in turn saving students and families thousands, literally. I am only a freshman, so noticing the prices so early on has highly discouraged me from buying food on campus and it pains me with every swipe of my i-Card at the register. I understand that the money has already been paid, so I plan on using every cent that has been paid to the meal plan this year, but I would really like to see a change in the meal plan options because of the decreased prices of the meals. Thank you for your time. I really have high hopes about this, as do several students that I have spoken to about this craziness.”

Analysis of all three University of Illinois campuses (Cost for academic year)

- Springfield
- Gold Plan - $375
- Platinum Plan - $1,150
- Signature Plan - $1,575
- Titanium (new plan) - $2,100

- Urbana-Champaign
  - 12 Classic/15 Café Credits Plan - $4,288
  - 10 Classic/45 Café Credits Plan - $4,928
  - All Café Credits (130) Plan - $5,270
  - Maximum Classic Plan - $5,270

- Chicago
  - Traditional Meal Plans
    - 7-Day (Anytime dining) - $3,045
    - 6-Day (Anytime dining) - $2,884
    - 5-Day (Anytime dining) - $2,694
  - Block Meal Plans
    - Block 20 – 20 meals for $140
    - Block 50 – 50 meals for $330
    - Block 100 – 100 meals for $625
  - Pay-Per-Meal
    - Breakfast - $5.29
    - Lunch - $7.99
    - Dinner - $9.29
    - Late Night - $7.59
    - Weekend Brunch - $7.59

This is a commonly suggested problem in the 99 problems campaign. At this time, UIS’ food service prices are well-below average of the University of Illinois system. A possible reason this ‘sticker shock’ exists is because the full cost of each meal is detailed to the student at the register, rather than a “swipe” to enter the food service area. Student may also be used to government-subsidized school lunches in a public K-12 institution. It was also brought up in past conversations with food service that the quality of the food UIS uses far-surpasses quality standards. The Administrative Affairs Committee will seek no further action on this issue based on reasoning, but will relay the concern to food service management.

“Carl Sandburg Lane should be connected to Eleventh Street instead of just being for pulling out onto Eliza Farnham Drive. It is a hassle and tease if your car is parked right next to eleventh and you can’t just turn straight out”.

This request was reviewed in committee and will not be pursued for a multitude of reasons. The UIS Campus Master Plan (2008 Update) proposes the installation of a secondary, dense tree line along Eleventh Street that would prohibit the installation of pavement. Eleventh Street is out of the jurisdiction and control of the University of Illinois Springfield; the Illinois Department of Transportation, instead, will need to make a decision that traffic congestion is dense enough on the University of Illinois Springfield campus to warrant a fourth road that connects Eleventh Street (a fairly new road) to the University grounds. The possibility of a fourth intersection would also create a traffic hazard and may possibly require the decrease of speed limit from 45mph on Eleventh Street.

“On old campus, I can’t figure out what buildings are what. The university should paint the letters or buildings to identify what’s what”.

This should not be a problem after the first week of school; orientation programs take students through multiple buildings (Business Services, Student Life) on east campus. This request was reviewed in committee and forwarded to Mr. Dave Barrows, Associate Chancellor for Administrative Affairs and Executive Director of Facilities and Services. While Facilities and Services admits there is no large signage or distinct architectural styles (UHB vs. PAC/Brookens), the buildings are [at this time] clearly labeled on both the campus map and with multiple pole signs. These pole signs are universal across campus and are placed in easily visible locations. At this time, students are confused where things are located (Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center, Counseling Services). A new map could be drawn up for students that identifies the specific locations of offices on campus (LGBT Resource Office, Financial Aid, Health Services). At the same time, a map of this style already exists on the UIS website and at the entrance to each building. Being that these buildings are both (a) clearly marked with pole signs and (b) internal offices are clearly marked on universal campus maps, no further action will be taken by the Administrative Affairs committee.

“Smoking has been a controversial topic thus far in the school year. I’ve heard that there’s a task force to observe the possibilities of making the campus smoking free. Rather than waiting for the task force to finalize their own thoughts, I’d like to see a better enforcement of the current policy before anything new is implemented. I’d really like to walk into UHB and other buildings around campus without being hit by a huge smoke cloud every day.”

The Smoking Policy Task Force was charged with looking at all possibilities for change to the current UIS Smoking Policy and an increase in signage or visibility of the current policy was discussed. Rather than focusing on making the campus completely smoke-free only, a multitude of options were discussed but nothing has been discussed publically in regard to the conclusion of the Smoking Policy Task Force. We do value the health of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors on the campus and the Task Force’s findings are now in the hands of the campus administration.

“Is it a health hazard if I inhale large amounts of smoke every time I walk into any building on campus?”

The Smoking Policy Task Force was charged with looking at all possibilities for change to the current UIS Smoking Policy and an increase in signage or visibility of the current policy was discussed. Rather than focusing on making the campus completely smoke-free only, a multitude of options were discussed but nothing has been discussed publically in regard to the conclusion of the Smoking Policy Task Force. We do value the health of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors on the campus and the Task Force’s findings are now in the hands of the campus administration.

“a special parking spot for motorcycles and scooters”

Parking Operations has begun discussion regarding motorcycle parking and will continue to research available options throughout the remainder of this semester.

“I think the biggest problem this campus has is that there is a lack of traditional campus transportation services. I realize we have a contract with SMTD that says we won't compete with them but we seem to get zero benefit from that contract. We have no free shuttle to places like Walmart or the train station which most schools would have. Instead we are forced to pay for and wait for the SMTD buses to show up if we don't own a vehicle because it would just sit there 90% of the time. I think something needs to be done about this. Either find a way out of the contract and get our own shuttles or get SMTD to give free rides for UIS students with a valid i-card to make up for the inconvenience the contract causes. We could also do something like hourly car rentals at
reasonable rates from the motor pool which students could use to go get groceries or go to the hospitals or whatever they need to do.

As it is, if you don't own a car on this campus you are extremely inconvenienced where on most other campuses you could easily get around town pretty easily using the school's transportation services. In fact from what I've seen a good number of other campuses discourage people from having cars until they start needing them for internships and such. It should be similar on this campus for people who choose to live on campus, we shouldn't be forced into buying a car just so we can buy food or other essential items.”

&

“I am a transfer student living on campus, without a vehicle. The one struggle that I have had throughout my 2 years here, is getting food from the store and getting back and forth from the train station. Although, there is a taxi service to get you anywhere you want to go, a trip to Walmart (yes the one less than five minutes away) will cost you about $16 dollars round trip. There is also a bus service, but I live in a townhouse so if I want enough food for a week it will not all fit on the bus conveniently.

I propose that we develop some kind of shuttle system that will take students to and from Walmart and/or Aldi, maybe once a week or so, and to and from the train station (or least on Sunday night, as that is when the majority of students come back to school). I think this would help all the students on campus that lack consistent transportation, and we already have the campus vehicles necessary to accomplish this task. That way students can eat, without spending a ridiculous amount of money on transportation or annoying their friends with ride requests.”

&

“Can we have some type of shuttle that could transport student without cars to different places around campus? Students, like myself, struggle to get to the train station or Wal-Mart on the bus. This is especially difficult when I need to get big cases of water; or I’m going home for thanksgiving or winter break. Also this shuttle would be a great way to reduce possible drinking and driving on the weekends. If this shuttle was in place it would also open up the opportunity for more jobs.”

UIS will begin a free UIS Student Shopping Shuttle on February 24 Monday. A 15 passenger van will pick up at the Public Affairs Center (PAC) tear drop and will do a one hour transportation loop to the Mall (south entrance). Best Buy, Target, Barnes and Noble, Walgreens and Wal-Mart with 5 minute waits and return back to UIS. Service will be provided: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6-10 PM, Sunday from NOON to 5 PM. This opportunity is a trial basis. Transportation began on February 24th and an end on May 16th with no service on the week of March 17-21 (spring break). This service will be re-evaluated on usage to determine the future of the service.

The service is sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and Student Government Association.

“We need a bigger, variety of sororities and fraternities.”

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. First of all having Greek Life at UIS is a privilege. After years of hard work by three students this became a reality. It was made clear four Greek organizations would be invited to begin this wonderful opportunity. Presently, Alpha Phi Alpha
Inc. (fraternity), Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. (fraternity) and Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. (sorority) will be the only chartered Social Greek Organizations at the end of the school year. Delta Sigma Theta Inc. was also invited and awaiting the acceptance by their National Office. Presently, there are two colonies Phi Kappa Tau (Men) and Gamma Phi Beta (female) that are not eligible to be chartered until they fulfill all requirements stated by their national office.

It's important for the university to make sure we can sustain the present organizations before seeking other organizations. All students are welcomed to attend interest sessions to find out about the organizations, GPA requirements, and financial obligations. Students cannot invite a social Greek organization to the campus without approval by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and the Greek Affairs Board.

The Greek Affairs Board will send a notice to the UIS community when we are accepting new proposals.

*This report was compiled by the Vision and Campus Relations Committee. Various SGA standing committees researched the various 99 problem submissions and submitted responses to be included in the report.

Committees and Chairs are:

Vision and Campus Relations – Katie Reynolds
Student Affairs – Samia Ahmad
Academic Affairs – Justin Ketterman
Administrative Affairs – Michael Lotspeich