



# Renovations being discussed for campus

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On Thursday, April 15, Brailsford & Dunlavey held the first of many focus groups involving students. This company met with 12 students ranging from first-years to seniors. Brailsford & Dunlavey held this focus group to get a better understanding of campus life and more specifically brought up the topic of the residential halls, Pierce and White.

Brailsford & Dunlavey, which is centrally located in Washington D.C., has a goal of helping many campuses across the nation by acting as campus life consultants. Along with this company, a number of architects joined in the focus group.

To begin the group, students were asked their year, major, and where they were from. Other points brought up during the beginning were why the students decided to come to Buena Vista University (BVU). Answers to this question varied from scholarships to location to friendliness of students, faculty and staff. Also asked was what some of the disappointing things about BVU were. Again, answers varied from student to student.

One concern that was brought up in the initial talk was Lage. Although the focus group was not intended to discuss Lage issues, concerns were raised. Such issues were the heating and cooling systems, the recording studio, need for a convenient lounge space for students, and outdated equipment.

The majority of the time was spent on talking about renovations for Pierce and White. Students expressed their concerns about lighting in the hallways that give the building a “dungeon” feeling.

Another issue was the pool hall located in Pierce. After some incidents, the pool hall began to be locked. This causes students to have to track down a Resident Advisor in order to get inside.

Bathrooms were also a major concern for those living in White and Pierce. For example, third floor showers in Pierce have some issues with cracking and foundation, that raises concerns about safety. Water pressure on the south side of White is lacking. Some showers had a “mist-like” feeling while others have a “pelting” water feature. Overall, the showers’ water pressure is varying.

One other concern was maybe two bathrooms on each floor was not enough. Also, students expressed the possibility of having smaller bathrooms on each floor for the opposite sex. Currently, there are no opposite sex bathrooms on

any floors in the Pierce and White complexes. Instead a lot of female students walk back over to White second floor to use the female bathrooms.

Heating and cooling systems were also brought up for discussion. The rooms in Pierce and White do not have much for airflow. Residents have to open their doors and windows in order to get a "nice breeze." Residents who have lived on White third floor and second floor expressed how hot it became in the winter because of all the heat. This causes students to have to open their windows to stay cool and comfortable.

Representatives from Brailsford & Dunlavey brought up the idea of lounges. Students expressed that they used the lounges but it would be nice to have lounges that were bigger with lots of windows to let light in. For example, students discussed using the south side of White and Pierce for large lounges and large windows to look out onto the football games on Saturday afternoons.

Another idea brought up was using the basements of White and Pierce for study rooms, similar to those found in the library. These could be rooms made for three to six people. Inside the rooms would be white boards, tables, and chairs.

One of the most discussed items brought up by Brailsford & Dunlavey was making Pierce and White first-year dormitories. This idea was shot down by a lot of the focus group students. According to some students it is important to form bonds with upperclassmen. Through this interaction you are not just talking to your classmates, but gaining knowledgeable experiences such as how to set up your room and what classes to take.

Other ideas brought up were an elevator system for handicap accessibility, especially for those who injure themselves and cannot walk up stairs. Another idea brought up was better washers and dryers for Pierce and White.

This focus group includes no final decisions on the future of Pierce and White. This was the first step for looking over the residential program. Its purpose was simply to gain knowledge from the students. With this focus group Brailsford & Dunlavey will develop facility concepts and a plan for moving forward with renovations of Pierce and White.