

TWU eyes new housing options on campus

By Jenna Duncan

Staff Writer

jduncan@dentonrc.com

Published: 05 November 2015 10:42 PM

Texas Woman's University officials are working with a consultant to figure out how to have more housing options on campus.

In a briefing to the Board of Regents, consultants and university housing officials stressed that students want and need new housing that focuses on building a community among students.

Monica Mendez-Grant, vice president of student life, said the need is continuing to grow, and the university is simply out of space for students. Since 2011, the university has leased off-campus apartments for students to live in, and in recent years, some students have started the year living in hotels.

The university has been working with consultant Brailsford and Dunlavey since September to help officials define the priorities for new housing and analyze what the university can afford.

"Their recommendations should include some options for TWU to help us drive a decision, and the hope is after we receive the recommendations from B&D the leadership can look at the report to make a decision that's best for our students, then bring forward a recommendation to the regents in the spring," Mendez-Grant said.

So far, the company has surveyed students and held focus groups to determine what students want and what they're willing to pay for housing.

While cost is a top factor for students, consultants found that students are willing to pay a higher price than what current on-campus housing costs to make sure they're on campus.

"We've learned that perceived security is important to them, and so students want to live on campus," Mendez-Grant said. "[The consultants] believe the culture at TWU is distinct and the residential experience is one that our students want to have, even if they aren't required to live on campus."

Consultants are also exploring housing options for graduate students and nontraditional students who typically don't live in the older campus dormitories.

B&D is expected to finish the work by the end of December, then provide specific recommendations to the university. Then, Mendez-Grant hopes to bring housing projects to the Board of Regents next spring.

JENNA DUNCAN can be reached at 940-566-6889 and via Twitter at @JennaFDuncan.



SOCIAL INSECURITY

Let Dental Implants
Restore Your Confidence

SWISHER DENTAL

10000 E. 11th St., Suite 100, Denver, CO 80231