

## Study: Strong demand for additional student housing at Wichita State

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**Wichita State University** has the demand for a new student housing facility with about 400 beds, a consulting firm's study concludes.

The university on Wednesday released the findings of a **Brailsford & Dunlavey** study that evaluated the feasibility of adding additional on-campus housing at WSU. University leaders and representatives from GLMV Architecture commissioned B&D in July 2015 to conduct a housing analysis of existing housing options on and around campus.

B&D recommends phasing out Wichita State's Fairmount Towers because of "operational inefficiencies" associated with location and utilization of that property. Fairmount Towers, built in 1977, is located near the northwest corner of 21st Street and Hillside, away from most of the university's academic buildings.

Wichita State leaders want to build another student housing complex on the university's innovation campus, which is near 17th Street North and Oliver on



KELLEN JENKINS / WBJ

WSU's Shocker Hall was opened in August of 2014 and provides 784 beds. The facility opened at capacity and with more than 100 students on a waiting list.

the east end of WSU.

WSU leaders say student interest in living on campus intensified with the August 2014 opening of the 784-bed Shocker Hall. The facility opened at capacity and with more than 100 students on a waiting list.

That prompted WSU to accelerate its plans to build a second student-housing facility. But the university ultimately decided to pump the brakes on starting another student-housing project, pending the outcome of the feasibility study.

B&D developed two funding models for a future student housing project.

One would involve the creation of a public/private partnership, in which the asset would be owned by a nonprofit foundation and financed with tax-exempt bonds. The foundation would have a land lease with Wichita State for the project and serve as the borrower.

B&D's second option would be for WSU to self finance the project through bonds. Revenue from the housing facility would then be used to pay the debt service on the bonds and cover operational costs.

WSU leaders say they will study the results of the B&D report to determine the appropriate course of action.

The full report is available online.

**Josh Heck**

Reporter

*Wichita Business Journal*

