

VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

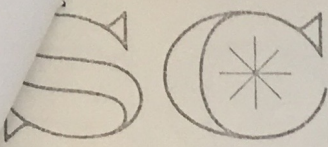
May 25, 1971

TO: The Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Mark Ferber
RE: EVALUATION OF DORM LIFE

The following report was put together by a committee of staff from Student Services and students. On the basis of the report, the following points emerge:

1. Coeducational dorms have proven to be a relative success. The higher degree of social interaction and the overall impression of naturalness are fairly clear cut. On the basis of tentative data, we moved ahead in expanding coeducational dorms for 1971-72. The new program is attached as Exhibit 1.
2. Dorm Councils represent far greater variation. In those areas where they were most successful--again, this seems related to the coed dorms--they were able not only to take a positive social role, but have also acted as a healthy force in maintaining order. In other dorms they were virtually non-existent and the Head Resident Assistant and Resident Assistants had to carry through in a traditional manner. Fr. Olivo and I will be spending a good deal of time this summer working with students to define the proper balance between the Dorm Councils and the Resident Assistant Program.
3. With regard to parietal hours, I strongly recommend that the administration give serious thought to this problem during the summer months and that Trustees grant to the administration maximum flexibility. I do not think a precipitous move can be made, but I think we should approach this problem in a totally open spirit.

While it is clear that there have been problems in the dorms this year, I have a sense that progress has been made and that greater strides can be made next year under the clear direction of Fr. Olivo.

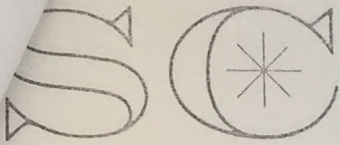


At the beginning of the second quarter, a committee was formed for the purpose of evaluating the present residence hall system at the University of Santa Clara. The first meetings were devoted to structuring a method for gathering facts needed for such a project. After the evaluation itself was completed, the committee made recommendations for improvement of this system for the following year.

The concept of the residence hall system at its inception last Fall included the promotion of a dorm council system for self-government and self regulation by the residents; a modified role for the Resident Jesuit; the integration of the Jesuits role within this program; and the institution of coeducational living.

In an effort to gather the facts needed for an analysis of the present system, five specific steps were taken.

1. University Residence Environment Scale was administered in early November. This project sought to measure various elements of campus living such as degrees of personal affiliation, concern for individuals in the dorms, social propriety, independence, academic climate, competitiveness and intellectual interest.
2. An opinion pole was formulated by this committee and implemented by the Santa Clara Research Institute. A sampling of students commented on their general views of campus living.
3. A questionnaire on Dorm Councils was distributed to all resident students which sought to get information on the more specific areas of self government, self regulation and inter-visitation hours.
4. An interview was conducted by members of this committee with the Board of Community Order, seeking to get their evaluation of the performance of dorm councils.
5. An interview was conducted with a group of Resident Jesuits who evaluated various aspects of the residence hall system.



I. University Residence Halls Activity Scale

The sub-scales that were measured by this evaluation can be found on the material appended. The results are, at this time, inconclusive since these scores will gain more meaning after a similar evaluation is made at the beginning of the coming year. This should provide some comparison which could indicate what effects the newly instituted residence hall system has had on the way the resident students perceive their living situation. General observations at this time are that in the interpersonal areas (1-4) women rate above the norm as they do in social orientation (5-7). The sub-scales measuring conformity (8-10) the women generally rate around the norm. Independence and competition are usually below the norm.

The men, on the other hand, score rather lowly on the interpersonal scales and social orientation while showing a higher score in areas of independence and competition. Co-Ed dorms appear to score very close to the mean in all areas measured. Whether these scores are an averaging of men and women's scores rather than a decidedly different outlook on the part of all residents of co-ed dorms remains to be determined.

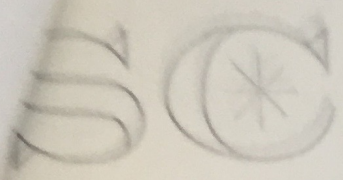
As is mentioned above, the results of this scale are, at this time, inconclusive but may be of great value when compared to the results of the same scale taken next Fall. Besides measuring just the attitudes of Santa Clara students, an additional comparison is made to public, other private and religious institutions.

II. SCRI Poll

The nine questions that appear on this poll were designed to get information on student's general impression of campus living. Some of the more significant results were as follows:

1. When asked if dorms had a function beyond being a place to sleep and study, residents interviewed almost unanimously stated yes and that dorms provided the student an opportunity to form lasting friendships and to meet people from diverse backgrounds. There was also much mention of an ability to freely exchange ideas and to become aware of other viewpoints and one another's needs.

2. One question sought to find if students think in terms of community on their floor. Most respondents felt that it is realistic to think of dorm life as a community because students share the same goals and the same problems. It was apparent that the degree of community varied from floor to floor and that floors having a heavier representation of freshmen and sophomores had a higher degree of involvement and sense of cohesiveness. Coed dorms also reported a higher level of community.
3. When asked what the resident does when it is noisy and he has a test to take the next day, most students replied that they would first ask the persons involved to quiet down and if that failed, they would study in the library or in a lounge. A noisy dorm would prevent only two out of the sixty-two interviewed from studying for a test. Among those interviewed were nine Resident Assistants who were unanimous in their endorsement of dorm living, finding it a great opportunity for growth, friendships, and less of a hassle than living in an apartment.
4. When sophomores and juniors were asked to compare dorm life this year to last, the comments were almost unanimous in indicating a significant improvement over the past.
5. In response to a question concerning the value of hours, out of sixty two persons interviewed, fifty-five said that they found visiting privileges valuable and that they presented them no problems; of the fifty-five, twenty-two added that they were against the present limitations on visiting and that they favor open dorms. (This addition was on the initiative of those interviewed; the questionnaire did not ask whether the resident favored open dorms.) Only seven persons said that they found no value in visiting hours. One resident stated that visiting privileges allow a more natural atmosphere for informal get-togethers providing a chance to relax with the opposite sex and that the privilege gave the residents more responsibility and privacy. (This was a survey of opinion not a poll, and as such there was no need for massive polling, since the purpose of the poll was to gather opinions not statistics.)



The survey was answered by: 25 freshmen, 14 sophomores, 9 juniors, 3 dorm council members and 4 resident assistants.

III. Dorm Councils == Self-Regulation

Each resident student was questioned in a survey to find how effective dorm councils appeared to be. They were asked eight questions ranging from how they saw the dorm council functioning generally to what they feel the councils have accomplished; what roles the dorm councils should play; the rapport between the residence hall staff and the dorm councils and whether or not the dorm council system should be continued.

Response to how students felt the dorm councils were functioning, there appeared to be great variety among the residence halls. Coed dorms, women's dorms and men's dorms with higher ratios of freshmen reported the most active dorm councils. Most of these students felt that they were satisfied with what had been accomplished. A number of them indicated that this was the first year that a good start had been made but much was yet to be done. Men's dorms on the other hand (especially the Alameda) reported low levels of activity among the dorm council and tended to answer that they were satisfied with the situation. A significant majority of all respondents felt that dorm councils had assumed the role of enforcing University policies and civil law. They also felt that this is the way that they would like to see it. However, there were considerable number of students who indicated by their remarks that neither residence hall staff or dorm council representatives should be enforcing restrictions on residents. This begged the question as to who, in fact, should be performing this function.

About one quarter of the respondents stated that they had received some personal benefit as a result of dorm councils. No respondents stated that they had felt any negative effects. When asked if they would continue dorm councils, an overwhelming majority answered yes. As a part of this question, they were asked to indicate what role they thought the dorm council should play. Nearly all those answering indicated that social activities and academic and cultural programs were the primary roles for the councils. A limited number indicated that regulation enforcement should also be a function of dorm councils.

The last question asked what type of visiting hours the students felt would be best for him personally. Residents were, with the exception of three or four, unanimous in indicating that they felt strongly that the option for 24 hours inter-visitation should be adopted. Some stated that any limitations thereafter should be proposed by the residents themselves.

IV. Board of Community Order

Two members of the evaluation team met with the Board of Community Order to discuss how they felt dorm councils were working and to ascertain what value they saw in this program.

It was apparent throughout the interview that the members of the Board of Community Order (the president of each of the respective dorm councils) were very enthusiastic about this system and because of their personal commitment, tended to be quite optimistic about the future of dorm councils and their abilities to meet the needs of resident students. They appraised their function as relatively successful in areas of social programming.

They also cited cases where students charged with misconduct had been referred to them in instances where dorm councils had had difficulty at the dorm level. These cases that were heard by this board were resolved and the students heard had, in all cases, responded in attending the hearings as well as accepting the sanctions that were issued.

It became apparent in the course of the interview that the Board of Community Order had not functioned in capacity of assisting member dorm presidents in dealing with the particular problems of their respective councils and resident constituenties. In the course of our interview, members of the board, in fact, began to discuss such problems. Board members felt that in regard to discipline it was very advantageous for students cited for misconduct to appear before a panel of peers. However, they expressed reservations about the actual on-the-spot enforcement of policies and regulations by persons other than the residence hall staff.

V. Resident Jesuit Interview

The Jesuits reflected many of the same feelings that had surfaced in other questionnaires and interviews. They felt that the function of dorm councils might be better limited to social activities, speakers programs, defined needed physical improvements in the dorms, while discipline would be handled primarily by the Residence Hall Staff. One Jesuit felt that he was dissatisfied by the way discipline was handled this year and felt that there should be more emphasis on the authority that resides in the Resident Assistant. There was feeling expressed that the administration tends to be isolated from the Residence Halls and that there should be more frequent meetings between resident Jesuits, resident hall staff, administration and the President. One Jesuit conducted an impromptu survey concerning the setting of inter-visitation hours. The response among the Jesuits present was unanimous in stating that setting hours is unrealistic with present study and lifestyles of young people today.

The committee, in studying all of the responses to the questions on the interviews that were conducted, would like to make these observations.

1. That in the first year of a comprehensive dorm council system, indications are that a significantly greater number of residents are directly involved in affairs that concern their campus living and that an overwhelming majority of students consider their campus living experience this year as a marked improvement over the past.
2. That the most positive responses to the questions that were asked of these dorms tended to be the most effective. In light of these circumstances and in the notable absence of any adverse situations related to coeducational living, this committee would recommend an expansion of the coeducational program. However there is a need to maintain some dormitories as all men or women for those who would prefer such a lifestyle.
3. That the dorm councils at this time appear to function best as initiators and promoters of social, cultural, religious and academic activities and that emphasis in the future should be directed to these areas.

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Their role in self-regulation might best be defined as constituting regulations or policies they feel will meet their needs and hearing cases of violations of such policies that have been referred to them by residence hall staff. Actual citation of students appears to be best handled by the residence hall staff.

4. That responses from all people directly concerned with living on campus would indicate that the present policy of establishing visiting hours is without merit and that serious consideration should be given to offering students the option of establishing whatever hours they feel would be appropriate. There was a general feeling that present hours seemed to be perceived by most students as an indication of a preoccupation by the administration of the dangers of sexual promiscuity. It was felt that such a preoccupation overlooked not only the apparently unaffected index of such sexual promiscuity but did not take into cognizance the more far reaching personal, social, as well as educational growth of residents -- quite unrelated to physical sex.
5. That there be expanded discussion and definition of the role of the resident Jesuit as it relates to this program and that the resident assistants be included as well, in this effort. Also, that there be a greater frequency of communication between Jesuits and the Dean of Students Staff.