Hello,

Our group spoke with students on the topic “Ensure First-year Residential Hall Experience Results in Student Career Success.” The experiences of students interviewed varied widely. One common experience was that living in the dorms helped in meeting people: this was mentioned in all but two interviews. Many students felt that dorm life contributed to their success at NIU in terms of study habits, getting involved, and adjusting to life at college. On the negative side, the condition of the older dorms was noted by pretty much every student who lived in them. A repeated suggestion was that housing could group first-years by major and/or by “undecided” status: three students mentioned that. Our team thought that should be kept in mind in considering housing policy. A team member suggested that the cluster set-up seemed more beneficial than shared rooms in terms of getting to know other students; in moving forward with renovations or new dorm construction, this might be a great design element to employ. Finally, the difference in living conditions between the older and newer dorms is vast. Reducing or eliminating these differences will make dorm living more attractive, and if older dorms are to be maintained, steps should be taken to bring conditions in line with those of the newer dorms.

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