

**Residence Life at UAA: Secure outside expertise to investigate and make recommendations regarding a more streamlined and/or consolidated structure for specific Anchorage campus Residence Life & University Housing functions.**

**ESTIMATED SAVINGS = \$TBD; best practices, staff efficiencies. Expected long-term cost savings and improved service with the same or less staff.**

**ESTIMATED INVESTMENT: \$TBD**

#### Supporting Information

Both Residence Life and Housing departments received commendations in the 2000 UAA Accreditation Review Report. The department of Residence Life was deemed exemplary in the 2002 Ellis and Ching Review of UAA Student Services (Recommendation 9, see appendix).

Using UAA peer comparators and peer institutions (Source: OPRA Report 12/03/04), a recent web search was conducted and 15 of UAA's 22 peer comparator institutions had Residence Life/Housing reporting to Student Affairs; 2 to Administrative Services; 4 did not have housing; and the reporting structure for 2 could not be determined. Sixteen of UAA's 20 aspiring peer institutions had Residence Life/Housing reporting to Student Affairs, and 4 to Administrative Services. The data demonstrate that the majority of UAA comparator and aspiration peers have assigned the Residence Life and Housing functions to Student Affairs departments

The real question is not whether to consolidate the two departments, it is how can the processes that both departments participate in be made most efficient through process redesign efforts, the use of technology (see recommendation above), and the most cost effective and appropriate use of student and professional staff. A professional consultant in the College Housing/Residence Life field could determine these areas for improvement and cost savings. UAA Business Services and Student Affairs have already discussed the use of a consultant to guide their decisions on making the most productive use of their joint resources in the Residence Life and Housing departments.

*Note:* Any savings will be used to offset current budget cuts and staff reductions, anticipated revenue shortfalls, and used for cost containment of student housing fees. The Residence Life department has already projected an FY05 reduction of one administrative support staff person from 100% 12 months to 50% 12 months, resulting in a reduction in student staff providing front desk coverage for safety, reduced access to the residence halls, and reduced program offerings. The UAA Housing Department has also recommended FY05 budget reductions to its department in the Auxiliary CMT report.

#### **Updates:**

- Anticipated Outcome/s: Cost savings TBD; more streamlined organizational structure; integration of housing and residence life program philosophy and administration; more efficient use of current staffing.
- UAA to initiate process in the near term.

- Coordinated discussions should occur between Residence Life, Student Services, Housing, and Administrative Services.