

Niche

Leadership Summit 2006

Strategic Planning Small Group Discussion Summary

Session 1: Helping students find their niche
Really make sure that freshmen are aware

- The issue
 - o Not enough awareness about student activities
 - o So many opportunities
 - o Awareness of already offered Wash U amenities i.e. Spark
- Ideas
 - o Poster session
 - Aside from the Activities Fair
 - In a centralized place
 - Use new Student Center—a new venue for student groups to showcase
 - Really informative and info about what the groups are about
 - Remains up all week long
 - Only a number of student groups at a time
 - Also an info session—mandatory for all groups
 - A place where the groups could showcase their stuff in a more informative way
 - Student group posting center in Mallinckrodt/ Wohl
 - o Technology
 - A way to search for an activity for you
 - Student groups, internships, etc.
 - o RAs
 - Use them to have each floor fill out different forms on what they're interested in
 - Educate them on student groups
 - “Matchmaker”—match students with the right activities for them
 - take it a step farther and expand that to academics—educate the academic mentors
 - o A “Course Listing” for Activities—look for activities that you would really match up with
 - Make it accessible to all students
 - Definitely in print like Bearings
 - o Activities Fair
 - Have a pamphlet of information about time/place for welcome day info session
- Specific ways to implement

- Use President's orientation to get these ideas out to the people and organizations
- Make it part of Orientation Ambassador/ RA training
- Have similar groups do co-info sessions
- Make someone focused on the needs of incoming freshmen—in a group
- Use questionnaires
- Encourage groups to have small events on the Swamp at night (while most people are at Frat Row)
- Use OSA/ Orientation
- Primarily geared towards incoming freshman—but everyone can benefit
- Measurement of Success
 - To have every person know at least one group in which they can identify with
 - See a stronger Winter Activities Fair

Session 2:

- Issue
 - Some people feel lost in the crowd
 - People study and don't know what else to do
 - People need help focusing on what's important to them
 - Getting Career Center involved early on
- What to do
 - Know what questions to ask
 - Need to find ways to know what's going on
 - Job shadowing
 - Better advertising
 - Bulletin board—options, etc. in the dorms
 - Half-way through the semester there should be another Activities Fair
 - Some people don't know what to do—feel like they've “missed the beat”
 - The university offers so much to us
 - An unconventional directory—Bearings type thing—the real way to figure out school
 - Culminate an experience
 - We want to hear from professors!!!
 - Talk to administration about doing more and improving advising
 - Students need to talk advantage
 - Make students care
 - Help students who seek it
 - Have more programs that are not as forced