

THE PROJECT

Hobart and William Smith Colleges intends to enhance student life and improve student housing on campus. In the summer of 2011, the Board of Trustees initiated a process to enhance student life at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The purpose of this study was to investigate all student housing issues and develop various solutions that would best support the mission of the Colleges.

CHALLENGE

To guide this process, meetings were held with many constituent groups across campus and a student survey was conducted. Residences were analyzed and site studies were developed. The site study took form as a set of drawings showing a campus analysis and recommended various alternatives.

Because the residential experience is so integral to the liberal arts education at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, all students are required to live on campus, with only a few exceptions. In order for HWS to achieve their goal to reflect these values, a high priority is to create community and common spaces within each residence. To do so requires reducing the density of many of the existing residences; this will result in replacement beds to offset the reduction.

As of fall 2011, there were 54 student residences on campus. The housing stock consists of single gender and co-ed traditional residence halls, townhouses, fraternities, and small themed houses where students share a similar interest or cause. The Colleges lease a facility located in downtown Geneva that accommodates overflow. In the fall of 2011 all residences, including the leased facility, housed 1,885 students, resulting in an oversubscription of beds at 106 percent of capacity. As a result, student life has been considerably affected because common and social spaces were repurposed to accommodate the overflow in many of the traditional residential halls.

SOLUTION

A combination of new and renovated student housing is recommended. New construction of suites or apartments will reduce density in existing residences, add amenity space, and respond to enrollment changes. New housing would also replace beds in small, inefficient and expensive housing — housing with 9 beds or less. Renovations will include creating social and community space within existing housing and if necessary, will include reducing density. This means converting captured and strategically selected bedrooms to social space, informal small group collaboration space, club meeting rooms, study spaces, and computer rooms. Another recommendation is to create residential Living-Learning programs in order to have engaged communities and to support the residential life vision.



DECORDOVA HALL



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES
Housing Study 2011

- COLLEGE BUILDINGS
- EXISTING RESIDENCE
- POTENTIAL RESIDENTIAL SITES
- POTENTIAL PURCHASE
- SMALL & NON-TRADITIONAL HOUSING CONCENTRATION
- TRADITIONAL HOUSING CONCENTRATION

POTENTIAL RESIDENTIAL SITES CONCEPT DRAWING

RESULTS

The Colleges have approved the Living-Learning initiatives and are moving to create new apartment style units.

REFERENCE

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