



Student Engagement Report

Strategic Planning Steering Committee Student Engagement Subcommittee

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Abstract:

This report summarizes data gathered from various Wichita State University students, from both personal interactions and town hall meetings, regarding their thoughts about Wichita State University's strengths and areas for improvement.

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Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to highlight both areas of strength and areas needed for improvement as indicated by participating students.

The Student Subcommittee received the majority of feedback through three town hall meetings. Town hall meetings were conducted on the following dates:

- Monday, February 11, 2013 from 5:30-6:30 P.M.¹
- Thursday, February 14, 2013 from 12:30-1:30 P.M.
- Tuesday, February 19, 2013 from 5:30-6:30 P.M.

Participating students were asked three questions:

- Why did you choose Wichita State University?
- What have been your best experiences at Wichita State University? Would you recommend Wichita State University to your family or friends, and why or why not?
- As a student, what concerns you most about Wichita State University? What do you think needs improvement?

Through both written and oral feedback, students' responses were grouped categorically into fourteen most frequently mentioned responses (seven areas of strength and seven areas for improvement or concern).

Each category under "Areas of Strength" and "Areas for Improvement" contains a brief description of general ideas generated during the discussions.

¹ This was the "Greek Night" town hall meeting. This meeting focused on Wichita State University's Greek Life. This group was asked an additional question, "What has this campus done to benefit your student organization most? What might the university do to better help your organization succeed?"

Areas of Strength:

Major

Students believe Wichita State University offers a variety of quality majors and programs. Specific areas mentioned include the College of Engineering, School of Nursing, and the Barton School of Business.

Cost

In comparison to other universities within the state, Wichita State University students think that Wichita State University's tuition is low, but the quality of education they receive is comparable to other state universities.

Location

Many domestic students chose Wichita State University because it is close to home. International students chose Wichita State University, in part, because of the internship opportunities in the area and because there is a thriving international student population on campus.

Opportunities

On-campus employment opportunities, such as with NIAR and Cisco, were a contributing factor in choosing Wichita State University. Students also noted that the city is large enough for several cooperative education/internship placements.

Student Involvement Office

Mainly emphasized by Wichita State University's Greek Life, students feel more encouraged to be involved on campus because of the benefits offered by the Office of Student Involvement. Free advertising, button-making, and travel reimbursement were a few key items mentioned by students that help student organizations thrive.

Personal Recruitment Approach

Although many students cited the Office of Admissions as an excellent recruitment tool for them personally, several students highlighted other offices on campus such as the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Greek Life, and That Gay Group, as also contributing to their personal recruitment and decision to choose this university.

Campus Culture

Students like that Wichita State University is small enough to have friends in classes, and buildings close enough together that each building is within a 10-minute walking distance.

Areas for Improvement/Concerns:

Security

A major concern for students is security. Students feel that the number of campus police is not sufficient, especially since there are few cadets. Many students in residence halls feel uncomfortable walking to class in the evening. There are not enough safe points of access or stop lights and cross walks. The surrounding neighborhood is of high concern.

Rising Campus Tuition

Students are concerned that with all of the new changes and construction on campus, costs will rise above their affordability.

Campus Culture

Wichita State University lacks campus tradition and opportunities to “hang-out.” Students would like to see places like coffee shops and lounges spread throughout campus. Several students also noted that the large non-traditional student population at Wichita State University makes it difficult to have the same school spirit as other campuses such as the University of Kansas and Kansas State University.

International Student Opportunities

Wichita State University does not offer enough scholarships and employment opportunities for international students.

Academics

Wichita State University needs more undergraduate research opportunities, networking events for graduate students, and more graduate degree programs.

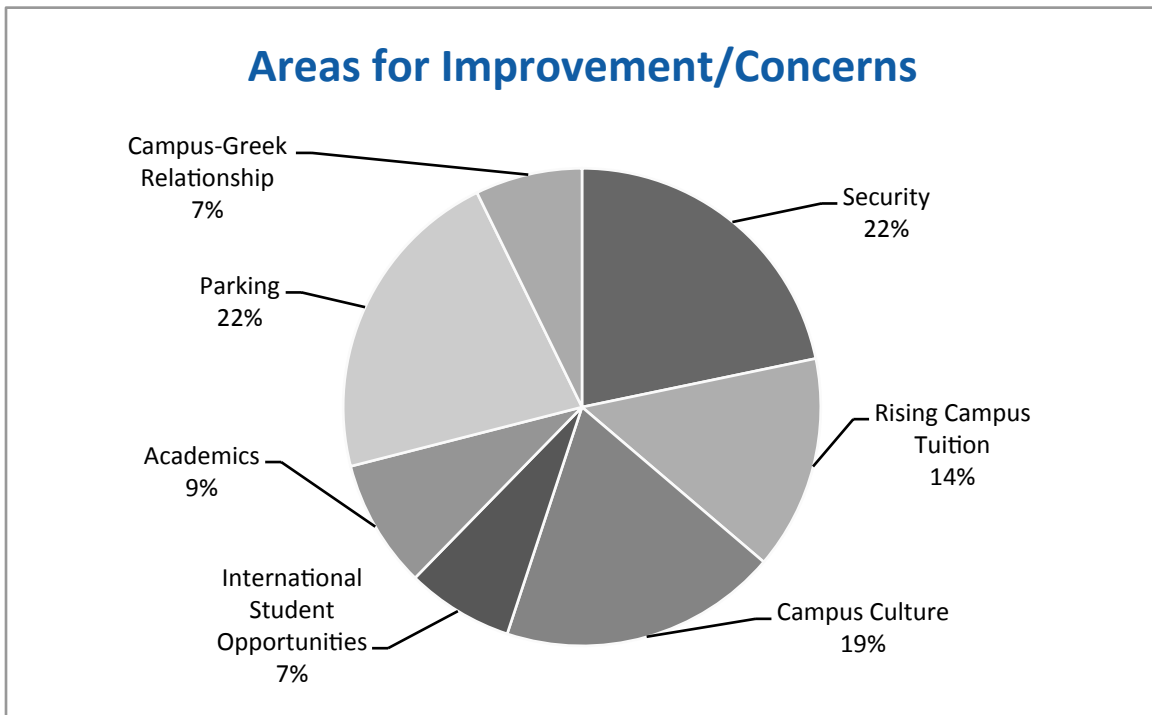
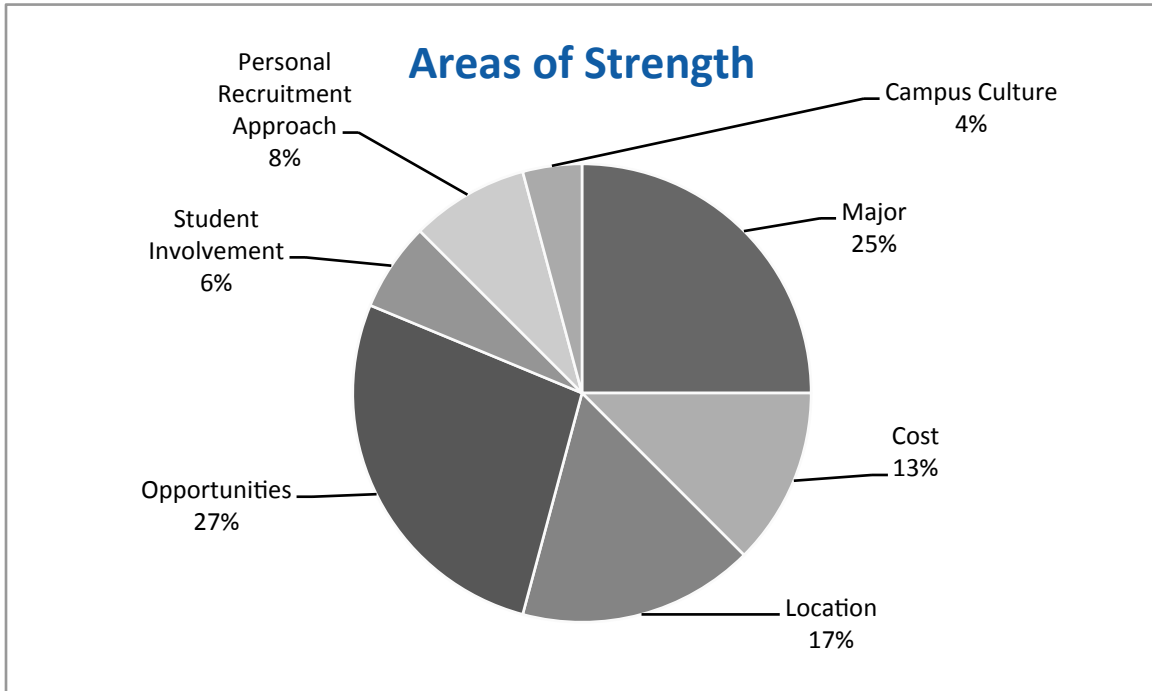
Parking

Students feel as though there is not enough parking where and when needed.

Campus-Greek Relationship

Members in Greek life mentioned that the university does not help with formal recruitment and lacks efficiency when handling financial issues. Greeks also noted that the university could help Greek life by advertising their events and helping to promote Greek life on campus.

Graphical Breakdown of Responses: Percent of Total Responses



Conclusion:

Students are choosing Wichita State University primarily for the networking and employment/experience opportunities they see here, their interest in Wichita State University's academic majors and programs, Wichita State University's location, and the low cost of attending the university in comparison to surrounding universities.

Although Wichita State University's general location is seen as a positive factor, students are concerned about the neighborhoods that surround the university. Many students suggested hiring more student cadets and police officers and increasing the number of emergency kiosks. Although campus culture was not a concern for most students, it was seen as an area that needs improvement. Students suggested more campus traditions and "hang out" areas.