

**Wichita State University Steering Committee
Student Engagement Subcommittee
Summary of Student Responses from Student Town Hall Meetings
February 11, 2013; February 14, 2013; February 19, 2013**

Student Engagement Subcommittee Members: Lynette Gacheri, Prabhjit Singh-Bagga, Michelle Scheer, Brandon Mills, Nick French, and Alex Diaz.

Question #1: Why did you choose to attend Wichita State University?

- The aerospace engineering program.
- I really liked the personal attention that I received during my recruitment.
- The Office of Multicultural Affairs helped to make me feel at home.
- It was my hometown school and it had my degree of choice.
- Wichita State University is the only school that had a gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender (That Gay Group) organization.
- Personalized attention from Wichita State University admissions office.
- Dean Scholarships.
- Wichita State University has the highest level of full-time employment within the first year of graduation.
- Cheap.
- Aerospace reputation.
- Location.
- Nursing department.
- Studious campus.
- I chose it because of its accelerated nursing program. It is the only such program in the area. My other option was the University of Kansas, but the cost and length of time to complete were not acceptable.
- Because of the profession I am in. I have been participating in a lot of external volunteer programs through our school activities because we don't get to see the information by not being on Wichita State University's campus.
- Wichita State University seemed to be much respected with the medical community and I am going into nursing.
- Wichita State University has an accelerated nursing program and other schools did not have that option.
- Affordable.
- Good reputation.
- It has a good (known) engineering program.
- Because I was offered the best scholarship package and it's close to my home. I preferred staying close to home over moving out of state.
- Scholarships given, close to home.
- Because it was closer to home and cheaper than going out of state.
- I chose Wichita State University because of the bowling team.
- Because of the strong criminal justice program.
- Because of the great engineering programs offered here.

- I came because my friends go here, and I was interested in the fraternity (Alpha Phi Alpha), of which I am now a member.
- The mentorship and relationship I built with the Minority Greek Council organization and the Office of Multicultural Affairs while in high school and during the transition from the community college.
- Aerospace program and I'm a long-time Shocker fan.
- Scholarships.
- The Barton School of Business.
- It served as an opportunity to get out of my home town where most people went to Kansas State University. It was also very cost-effective to come here.
- The Barton School of Business, Barton International Group, NIAR, student involvement, strong business presence, less expensive than most physical therapy schools, the air tunnel, urban setting, and the business scholarship competition.
- Great aerospace program and research opportunities. Small knit community of involved and engaged students that make it easy to get involved on campus. The cooperative education program, facilities, cost, and scholarships.
- Cost, location, major.
- It was the closest to where I live and I received scholarships. I am able to stay at home with my parents and save money.
- Locality seemed better than the community colleges.
- Has one of the best nursing programs.
- Finances are cheap for a university. Did not want to come, but now like it because of the Greeks.
- I liked the campus, big but small-feel atmosphere, and the basketball team.
- Greek community, full-ride scholarship, involvement of student life, small community, and I feel connected.
- Business partnership or intern experience, engineering school specifically.
- It is the only university close to me that has a doctorate level physical therapy program.
- The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) is a great deal.
- I was always involved in Wichita State University since I was young, so I decided that this was the best fit financially and socially for me because of this connection to the community.

Question #2: As a student, what concerns you most about Wichita State University? What do you think needs improvement?

- The alumni association.
- Name recognition.
- Not catering to younger alumni.
- School spirit.
- Parking.
- Issues with campus identity.
- Our student body is more diverse. We have a lot of non-traditional students, older students. School spirit is not priority for older students.
- Where is the space and funding coming from?
- Minority education.

- What is the percentage of students that graduate?
- College of Engineering.
- Instability of faculty and moving student groups to different departments.
- Out-of-state students.
- We need to recruit more students from out-of-state.
- Suggest increased involvement of Wichita State University out-of-state alumni.
- Ask students to get involved in the recruitment problems.
- Aerospace.
- International students. Wichita State University does a great job of recruiting challenging students. We should do a better job of promoting our aerospace program to international students.
- Parking.
- Shocker dollars cannot be used at a lot of places like the library, laundry facilities, etc.
- Across from Brennan – lots of people crossing but no safety measures.
- Need more cadets because they are helpful.
- Campus needs more of an active role in making sure the campus is safe.
- Maybe establish a LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questionable) department.
- Some students would like to take classes that aren't marketed very well. Newer programs should be broadly marketed to students.
- I would recommend, depending on the program, that the classes offered only once a year be offered more frequently.
- Need a better relationship between student organizations and programs as that doesn't happen between all of them.
- Managing OrgSync (a software program for student organizations to communicate with each other, schedule events and activities, etc.) is a chore and hard to get around in the program. It is not easy, effective, or convenient. Facebook is easier.
- From August to December not a lot happens on campus. Student Activities Council tries, but it doesn't always work.
- Last semester there was a lot more to do but there is not much this semester.
- I would like to see more things to just stop and take a break – like puzzles at different locations.
- The golf course should be moved.
- Students hang out on campus where there are more outside places to hang out.
- A coffee shop near campus would be nice. Maybe a Starbucks on campus?
- Food court closes way too early – extend the food court hours.
- Have a big screen in the Rhatigan Student Center for watching basketball games.
- If we had things to keep people on campus later, those things would help with student interactions.
- Cafeteria food choices are not healthy, but not just salads every day either.
- Cost of gas is off-setting cost of food, discouraging healthy eating because junk food is cheaper.
- Healthy food choices during finals – we don't need cocoa and cupcakes/donuts.
- Make Wichita State University better by offering more PhD programs for each program.
- Let undergraduates know about research they can do. I was at Wichita State University for ten years and never knew about these opportunities until this past year. Instead, I was heavily involved in other campus programs for most of that time.
- Not enough interaction between students, clubs, instructors, and staff.

- With Wichita State University's diverse population, not enough is mentioned to the community about how diverse it is, and not enough is done to combine our diverse communities into one.
- Financial support.
- Transportation to major events (shuttle bus) and smaller events, prior to the start of a game to encourage sportsmanship and unity.
- Would like to see more unity among departments (within each department as well as outside individual departments).
- Parking. As an accelerated student it would be nice to not have to drive all the way to Derby for classes (I live at Rock and Central).
- Establish "traditions".
- Bring back football.
- I am an adult learner and frankly, not on campus much or enrolled in student organizations. I am also in the accelerated nursing program and there is not much time for extra-curricular activities for me.
- I would pass out these questions to students at the basketball games to get more feedback.
- The distance between buildings is too much, to the point that it is time consuming to get anywhere.
- Spread "hangout" spots around campus to get students moving and talking.
- Improve the technology and color (green) on campus as well as improve all organizations.
- Green projects, be self-sustaining.
- Improve the total ranking of the school.
- Help international students with jobs and scholarship opportunities.
- International students have less priority for jobs because of social security issues, but opportunities should be presented equally to all students.
- I live with relatives. I cannot afford the University of Kansas. Wichita State University offers entry-level computer and math classes not offered at the University of Kansas.
- The quality of education. Some professors are the best I have had. Others should not be teaching because they are not qualified.
- Up the standards.
- Some classes I learned a great deal, others I learned nothing. That's no exaggeration.
- More Greek life would help.
- The women' studies department has created organizations and secured good professors to lead them.
- Get more healthy eating restaurants in the food court.
- No football – it is a waste of money. But it is too bad it went away in the first place.
- Wichita State University is improving its recruitment of more traditional students. Please continue doing this. Wichita State University has a reputation of being second class compared with the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. This needs to change. Wichita State University does fit well within the Kansas Regents System of higher education. It fits well with the students in Sedgwick County.
- The library is improving a lot.
- One highlight is the international student population. That's great and should continue.
- There are activities on campus. The problem is that people don't show up.
- More Greek life would help.
- The plus/minus system of grading is very concerning. For the dorms, I think visitors should be allowed without signing in.

- The state of buildings, such as Wilner Auditorium and Neff Hall, is very important to me, both as a student and a theatre major and an honor's student. Neff could use a climate-controlled museum.
- School spirit, more on-campus activities.
- Although the campus is diverse, there is still a problem with using the term diverse.
- Healthier food places on campus, parking, not too many complaints.
- Parking, new places to eat.
- Parking, healthier food at dorms, school spirit, getting more students to get involved.
- If I didn't attend school here I wouldn't know about the multicultural options. Maybe there should be a better effort to advertise these options for students.
- The lack of communication between the student body and the faculty and staff.
- Campus relationship with Greek life.
- Concerned about degree competitiveness, student life involvement, and scholarships. Need to improve Greek life and do more traditional recruiting.
- The campus neglects Greek life.
- The stagnation of SAC (Student Activities Council) and the disconnect between the campus and Greek life. Campus seems to operate without any consideration for how it affects students.
- Parking concerns me. The Rhatigan Student Center – just concerned about the longevity of the project. I'm sure it will look nice when finished. I think we need to improve the overall culture around Wichita State University – we are supposed to be an urban university.
- Concerned about how the infrastructure costs (parking garage, residence hall, Rhatigan Student Center) will affect tuition.
- Parking, without a doubt, needs improvement.
- Parking and security.
- Academics need some improvement. Parking needs improvement.
- Parking. OrgSync.
- Limited parking on campus and around dorms. OrgSync – no one uses it or keeps information updated.
- Parking, housing, OrgSync, and security concern me.
- Students are losing autonomy as groups. Faculty work and student work aren't publicized, which could build the stature of the university.
- Dangerous surrounding neighborhoods. Rising tuition costs. 6% - 9% increases per year are ridiculous.
- Parking. Whether it is at the dorms or on campus. I don't like that if I drive to make a late-night McDonald's run that I can't park in the parking lot at the dorms when I get back. As a small stature girl I do not feel safe walking that far by myself, so in that way security could be improved.
- Could create a checklist for SGA (Student Government Association) funding.
- How do we get students to buy into the honor's program?
- There is lack of understanding of the basic requirements to be a part of the Honor's College.
- There is no point to being in the Honor's College.
- I wish we had longer library hours. Possibly staying open until midnight every night.
- Rules in housing are too strict and should be revised, i.e. alcohol and candles.
- Campus needs to have more student-friendly events at night.
- I would like to see more student involvement in undergraduate research.
- I think the Student Activities Council should do more to engage students.

- Bring in more concerts.
- Less frequent and larger events on campus. For example, bring in one big comedian instead of four we haven't heard of.
- Have events early in the evening to keep students on campus after classes.
- Parking.
- Is it possible to build a bridge over parking?
- Student Government Association funding needs to improve. Fix MyWSU.
- If there is going to be a +/- grading system, then there should be an A+.
- The only part of this campus that is diverse is the fact that there are many different cultures and races on campus. As far as the way people interact and communicate, I wouldn't consider it diverse.
- More healthy food.

Question 3A (Student Town Hall Meeting 1 – Greek Night): What has the university done to benefit your student organization most? What might the university do better to help your student organization succeed?

- We were able to be created because there only needs to be five students to be considered a student organization.
- The Office of Student Involvement held meetings keeping us informed. Gina Stewart, Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life, has helped me a lot, giving me advice and strategy ideas how to build our fraternity.
- The university has helped us with training and opportunities to help our fraternity.
- Better emphasis on recruitment.
- Increase the Supplemental Instruction resources.
- I would love a greater emphasis on helping with recruitment.
- They allowed us to exist.
- OrgSync really helps even though people don't like it. It's nice to be able to use the Wichita State University facilities, although I would like more support from Wichita State University. Publicizing our philanthropy on OrgSync would help.
- Would also be great if we were able to utilize the facilities for philanthropic events.
- The university should help support Greeks with our events.
- The university could provide more parking places near our houses where we don't get ticketed.
- Ability to reserve our materials has been helpful.
- Create more efficient parking to allow for more planned events.
- Help facilitate recruitment.
- Assist with funding – be more supportive of our events and help us advertise.
- Loosen restrictions on student groups. "Sober monitors" could be employed for safety.
- Assist with formal recruitment.

Question #3B (Student Town Hall Meeting 2): What have been your best experiences at Wichita State University? Would you recommend Wichita State University to your family and friends, why or why not?

- The Office of Student Involvement is a huge help. They do a great job of allocating resources. They could do more, but they are visible and they do a great job of making students feel welcomed.
- Wichita State University is a warm place. It's small and very personal.
- Wichita State University is one of the best kept secrets in the state of Kansas.
- Wichita State University does a great job getting students involved and hired after graduation.
- Wichita State University encourages students from different majors to interact. Departments are welcoming and allow non-majors to take classes.
- Living in the dorms was a great experience.
- Housing staff does a great job of requiring the resident assistants to be engaged.
- Leadership class was great.
- Wichita State University does a great job of offering students the opportunity to go to leadership conferences.
- Students have strong ties to faculty.
- The Office of Multicultural Affairs.
- I enjoy the fact that it is not a huge campus. Small class sizes were another reason why I came here. I like that I can have the one-on-one with my teachers. I also like that it is cheaper, yet I get the four-year university experience. The scholarships also helped.

Question #3C (Student Town Hall Meeting 3): Where would you like to see the university in 5 – 10 years?

- Find out why students are going to the University of Kansas and address answers.
- Make Wichita State University competitive to out-of-state universities, not just Kansas universities.
- More campus involvement in student organizations, not just Greeks and the Student Activities Council.
- More diverse student interactions amongst different student organization groups.
- Better ranking – we're not even in the top 100 universities in the United States.
- Offer more graduate programs, as in political science. The fact that Wichita State University students use this university as an undergraduate school only hurts Wichita State University's reputation.
- Advertise undergraduate research programs.
- Wichita State University is capable of doing excellent graduate research that can be competitive with the University of Kansas and other Kansas universities.
- Wichita State University needs a bus for away games.
- Hold town hall meetings within each program.
- Have a bus for residents on campus to go to other places like Target, Dillon's, etc.
- More scholarship options for international students.
- Emphasize diversity not only in the mission statement, but in advertising for prospective students.
- Look at how the community feels about us.

- Encourage community members to come to Wichita State University events like the Student Activities Council Family Carnival – a chance to hang out with college kids.
- Kansas motto – To the Stars – the university needs to focus on finding the cutting edge of technology and focus on that. Entrepreneurs interacting with engineers.
- More appreciation of the arts.