

Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Boyd Conference Room

Members Present: Shannon Remines, Chair – google meet; Charlie Cole – google meet; Tim McKenzie; Cathy Deeb; Gabe Nesmith

Guests: Darrin Martin, Interim President; Brent Benjamin, EVP;

Call to Order:

Chair Remines called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM in the Boyd Conference Room.

Housing Updates: Brent Benjamin, EVP

1. Housing Update Brent Benjamin, EVP
 - a. Future Expansion
 - i. Needs
 1. Local, young, freshman
 2. Need a business assessment
 3. Need a capital project and identify what is needed
 4. Student Freedom Initiative
 - a. Working with the city
 - b. Working with the Student Freedom Initiative
 - i. Helping HBCU's
 - c. Collaboration with this initiative and the city
 - i. City requesting information from BSU
 - ii. Meeting on the 27th
 - iii. Portal opens for applications and we have 30 days to complete
 - ii. Changes in Expectations
 1. Athletics
 - a. Focus on GPA's, Retention, Scholarships
 2. Demographics
 - a. Younger vs Older
 - i. Require Freshman – Sophomores on campus
 3. Recruiting
 - a. Focus on local recruiting
 - b. Costs
 - i. Building A
 1. Cost not satisfactorily determined
 2. Timing
 - ii. Old Nursing Home
 1. Outside investor wants to renovate
 - a. Wants us to guarantee occupancy
 - b. Issues: Asbestos, mold, remediation

Continued Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

- iii. City of Bluefield Meeting
 - 1. Almost no emphasis on multi-family housing
 - 2. Centralized planning focused on moving aging population to small units and getting federal monies
- iv. Elks Opera House
 - 1. Owners reaching to BSU again
 - 2. Have more of our students staying there
- v. Funding aspects for future housing – Call on Feb. 14/2024
- c. MEC Updates
 - i. Vacancies
 - 1. 77% occupancy, 179 units – 53 beds empty
 - ii. Washers/Dryers
 - 1. One of each down, in the process of being repaired
 - 2. Adding an addition washer and dryer due to demand
 - iii. Basketball Court/Volleyball Court near west entrance
 - 1. Space in the MEC Parking lot to build these
 - iv. Discussions: re: field sports in west lot – for intramurals and track walking
- d. Heritage Site
 - i. Contract to smooth out – weather issues – must be dry

Adjournment:

Chair Remines made a motion to adjourn the housing committee meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM

Minutes submitted by: Jeanne Moricle, Board Liaison