

Comments from Open Forum #11: Our Future Graduates.

Attending: large number of international students; mostly freshmen; most under 25 years of age; most full-time; large representation of residential students.

Would you be interested in working on campus if more jobs were available?

- (many answered yes)
- I'm different because I'm in the health care field so it's appropriate for me to work elsewhere.
- (GM) is compensation for on-campus jobs reasonable? (heads shake yes)

Would you like to live on campus if there was more housing available?

- No, I wouldn't live here even if more housing was available.
- I live on campus, and I love it, but others say it cost more and they wouldn't want to live here because of the cost.
- My parents told me I had to live on campus. I'm glad I have, and I will live here next year, but not for all four years.
- I live in Callahan, so my room is bigger.
- Being from Louisville, there's no way I could commute, so I live on campus on my fraternity floor. I love the experience.
- I have lived on campus all five years that I've been here, and I have lived in all the dorms. I think the variety that we have here is different than at other campuses, and it provides for a range of prices and choices. I think the choices are good.

How would you describe the quality of campus life?

- There are lots of opportunities to get involved with over 200 organizations, but there's not a lot of funding for them.
- It is easier if you are a resident to get involved and be connected. If something is at 5:00, you would already be home if you are a commuter.
- I am a commuter. In my freshman year, I didn't get involved and I almost left because I didn't feel I belonged. That was before I become involved with SGA.
- I feel I join activities on campus (international student).
- The recreation facilities are attractive.
- Students are supportive of the new rec center.

Are there areas or programs untapped?

- I'm on a planning committee, and we have talked about the construction management program that pulls in students from West Virginia.

- I think it would be cool to send some of our students to other countries and have them send students here – a student exchange program.
- I'm a respiratory therapy major, and I would jump on the opportunity to do a study abroad, but it's not offered in my field.
- One thing is that it takes students longer to graduation when they do a study abroad program. I wish I could have done it.

How welcoming is our campus community to international students?

- It depends. Some areas try to reach out to international students but the majority are not proactively engaged in being welcoming with international students; they are more neutral to the situation. But there are several programs that are proactive.
- There are opportunities for students to get involved but there's a bubble around student life – it is uncomfortable to penetrate the bubble in student affairs. Making opportunities like the multicultural festival more well-known would help; getting other student groups to participate in the event would also help.
- I think we are getting better over time. I'm in my second year and I see more events to increase awareness.

What is your impression of online courses?

- I was underwhelmed by my online courses. It was just Blackboard and telling you to do reading. It was cutting out the element of the in-classroom experience. You have to do more on your own. I thought there would be more guidance.
- I took all online courses in the fall because I was out-of-state last semester.
- Online courses are hit or miss. A lot of the general education online classes are easy; you breeze through them. I took one business online course with a professor who was amazing; she would email and phone and she was always available with help. The course I'm taking this semester is more difficult because of the topic.
- We have to be cautious with online courses with international students. There are immigration status issues/limitations and issues around the nature of the course and the student's language skills.
- I have never taken online courses at NKU but I did at another college. Your costs are higher, and that's not good for me.
- For convenience, I would take fully online if I could because I work full-time and have a family.

Are there graduate programs you would be interested in that we don't offer?

- Yes, Pharmacy. I'll probably go to UK for this.
- Physician Assistant program. That would be advantageous to those majoring in biology.

Retention is an area we need to focus on. What are your thoughts?

- I am from Ohio. I came with a group of friends and now I am the only one left. Most of my friends left because of the finances/cost as an out-of-state student. It was not worth spending the extra money. Other reason for another friend was because of being on the waiting list for radiology program; tired of waiting for program availability.
- Focus less on being a commuter school; stressing not being a commuter school would keep students here.
- I am one of the first-time full-time students you mentioned. A couple of my friends left after the first semester, not necessarily for financial reasons. They have transferred to other schools like UK because they see other friends having more fun there. Also, some students transfer out because we are a “dry campus.”
- UK does one thing really well – they accept a lot of AP and dual credit courses.