

To: Dr. Bruce McPherson, Executive Vice President & Provost
 CC: Dr. Melissa Shivers, Office of Student Life
 Michael Papadakis, Office of Business and Finance
 Jay Kasey, Office of Administration and Planning
 Kathy Lasher, Office of Institutional Equity
 Dr. James Moore III, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
 From: Parenting and Pregnant Students Support Committee (PPSSC)
 Date: July 15th, 2020
 Re: Progress Towards Planning a New Multi-Family Student Housing Facility

Overview

The Parenting & Pregnant Students Support Committee (PPSSC) unites invested stakeholders to further develop a university-wide support system for parenting & pregnant students and their families throughout all facets of university life. The committee acknowledges that the ACCESS Collaborative is the primary program that provides support to this population, while recognizing the power in partnerships across the university and that all Buckeyes play a role in creating a supportive community. The PPSSC includes students, a representative from all three student governments, faculty, and staff with leadership from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, the Office of Institutional Equity, and the Office of Student Life. This letter provides historical background, student needs, benchmark data, and requested action from the committee for The Ohio State University to move forward with the planning of a multi-family student housing facility and how to further support this diverse population.

Parenting and Pregnant Students Support Committee (PPSSC) Members 2020-2021

Name	Title / Area / Involvement
Dr. Matthew Couch	Interim Associate Vice President for Student Life & Associate Dean of Students
Traci Lewis	Program Director, ACCESS Collaborative, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Jillian Deas	GAA, ACCESS Collaborative; ACCESS Scholar; MA, Education Policy; President, Students with Children
Molly Peirano	Director, Education and Engagement, Institutional Equity; PhD Candidate, Social Work
Gala Korniyenko	CGS Senator, COPE member, PhD Candidate in City and Regional Planning
Steph Charles	CGS; works with CCAMPIS grant; PhD Candidate, HESA
James Uanhoro	CGS, PhD Candidate
Charity Martin-King	Director of Social Change, Office of Student Life
Leila Vieira	CGS, Chair of Housing and Family Affairs Committee; Buckeye Village Parent
TJ Beavers	Inter-Professional Council (IPC)
Donald Fuzer	Director, Child Care Program
Rhonda Michelle	ACCESS Collaborative; Buckeye Village Resident; VP of Students with Children
Jamie Wood	Assistant Director, Athletics Compliance
Trina Thomas	IPC Senator; law student parent
Anna Wagner	Senior Coordinator of Leadership Programs, Student Activities, Office of Student Life
Maddie Carson	USG, Chair of the Undergraduate Caucus
Stephen Post	CGS, President
Erica Regan	Associate Director, Center for the Study of Student Life, Office of Student Life
Jeremy Gabis	Director, Facility Planning and Design, Office of Student Life

Background

The Ohio State University (OSU) established Buckeye Village in 1948 as the University's first permanent housing and there were 400 units by 1961. University announced the closure of 50 units in Buckeye Village in 2015 to build the Covelli 15 Multi-Sport Arena at a cost of \$49.7 million. The University initiated a series of listening sessions in 2016 that continued until 2017 to identify the housing priorities and preferences of Buckeye Village residents. The data gained from these sessions emphasized the need for a residential community of students with families, where rental rates are offered at below market level. In January 2017, the University put out a Request For Proposals for private developers to construct the replacement complex and offer rental rates at most 25 percent below the market rate of apartments within 10 miles of campus; A plan for the University to build a 450-unit replacement complex at \$65 million failed to be seen as a financially viable solution¹.

In 2017, the University's capital planning vision, Framework 2.0, called for the development of an Athletics District in the area surrounding and including Buckeye Village. In October 2019, it was announced that the Buckeye Village at The Ohio State University would be officially closing and all current Buckeye Village residents in 89 units to move out by the start of the 2020-2021 academic year. Due to student advocacy and the COVID-19 pandemic, Buckeye Village residents were granted an extension to stay until the end of the 2020-2021 academic year. This decision however did not solve the issue of future family housing being provided by Ohio State. The Parenting and Pregnant Students Support Committee (PPSSC) was formed at the beginning of 2020 to examine gaps in support for these students and make recommendations on how to move forward with family housing at Ohio State.

Student Need & Supporting Data

The closure of OSU's only family housing facility means pregnant and parenting students will have another barrier to focusing on their education. It creates the difficult decision between either living close to campus and spending more of an already stretched budget on rent and utilities, or living far from campus and spending a lot of time commuting and away from their children. According to a study conducted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research², 15% of undergraduate students at four-year institutions have children. While there's no official data available specifically for graduate students, in the CGS Demographic Report for the 2019-2020 academic year³, 10% of the body claims to have children. A study⁴ of doctoral students at the University of California found that about 13% of students become parents by the time they graduate.

In a study conducted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research⁵, data shows that, "Student parents are more likely than students without children to be students of color: 51 percent compared with 46 percent of students without children. Looking across racial/ethnic backgrounds, Black college students are the most likely to be parents (33 percent), and Black women — two in five of whom are mothers — are more likely than women from other backgrounds to be raising children while in college." As you know, there are many international students and families currently living at Buckeye Village. Their international status means that they are not eligible for federal financial aid, nor are they or their spouse

¹ <https://cgs.osu.edu/posts/documents/res-1920-au-006-buckeye-village.pdf>

² <https://iwpr.org/publications/4-8-million-college-students-are-raising-children/>

³ <https://cgs.osu.edu/posts/documents/demographic-report-3.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Why-So-Few-Doctoral-Student/48872>

⁵ https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/C481_Parents-in-College-By-the-Numbers-Aspen-Ascend-and-IWPR.pdf

allowed to seek employment elsewhere to supplement their income. These are underrepresented populations that the university must support.

Availability of family housing also impacts recruitment. Many present and past residents of Buckeye Village would not have chosen to attend OSU if subsidized housing hadn't been available. A number of residents has also been approached by prospective students with questions about applying for family housing, only to regrettably tell them it is no longer a possibility at Ohio State. When comparing to other universities in the United States, including some Big 10 institutions, Ohio State will no longer be in the same group as universities that do offer family housing, such as University of California - Los Angeles (1,102 units for families), University of Florida (980), University of Illinois (1,041), University of Michigan (781), University of Minnesota (824), Penn State University (124), University of Washington (738), and University of Wisconsin (1,196)⁶.

Requested Actions

For years Ohio State has kicked-the-can on finding a solution to the issue of family housing, now is the time for us to put forward a plan to support these deserving students. The Ohio State University prides itself on its many initiatives to ensure the academic success of all our students, and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion by taking care of our most vulnerable populations. Therefore, we request the university take the following actions to make progress on providing affordable, family housing and supporting parenting and pregnant students:

- Establish the Family Housing Facility Executive Sponsor Group with leadership including Dr. Melissa Shivers, Vice President of the Office of Student Life; Michael Papadakis, Chief Financial Officer in the Office of Business and Finance; and Jay Kasey, Senior Vice President of the Office of Administration and Planning
- Ensure the continued communication among the Executive Sponsor Group and the Parenting and Pregnant Students Support Committee (PPSSC), the Office of Institutional Equity, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to incorporate knowledge and student needs.
- Engage the Office of Government Affairs to look at options of making this development more affordable to students through the help of community partners.
- Further support the work of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's ACCESS Collaborative including Scholar House, CCAMPIS, and other resources.⁷
- Collect demographic data throughout this process to track the needs of these underrepresented students.

⁶ <https://cgs.osu.edu/posts/documents/res-1920-au-006-buckeye-village.pdf>

⁷ <http://oma-test.org.ohio-state.edu/access/student-parent-resources/affordable-undergrad-student-parent-housing.html>