

Summary Report: First Consultation

Following the process outlined in the *Student Participation Protocol*, Ancillary Services and the Dean of Students Office launched their first of three consultations with the University community, regarding the needs of students who parent.

The first in-person session was on May 30th 2018. An online version was launched on June 1st, which replicated the questions asked in the first in-person session and it was available for two weeks. An additional session was held at Michener Park on June 23rd 2018, to accommodate individuals who may have difficulty traveling to north campus, from said community.

Seven parents attended the first in-person session and most brought their child or children with them. Thirty-four students who parent submitted an online response. Three students stopped in to the session at Michener Park.

In terms of the three primary factors which impact where students who parent and their families live, the concerns, which were echoed the most were: affordability, proximity to amenities, and safety.

With respect to housing needs, the key areas of improvement were convenient access to reliable transit, affordability and community creation of like-minded individuals.

Students discussed that they do feel that the University has a role to play in their housing needs. The University needs to provide safe, affordable housing, with a focus on better supporting students to build community.

There is a large feeling of being isolated, helpless and reacting versus preparing as a student who parents. Students who parent expressed concern that they feel ignored by the University and that there are no procedures or policies to protect them while on campus.

Students who do not live at Michener Park are spending a lot of time commuting to and from main campus. Transit in the winter time can not only be exhausting for them, but burdensome, when it is not reliable.

For the September consultation, Ancillary Services will be focusing on discussing varying options of supporting students who parent. Researching and presenting off-campus options, potential current campus options and assessing what better fits the needs of the community.