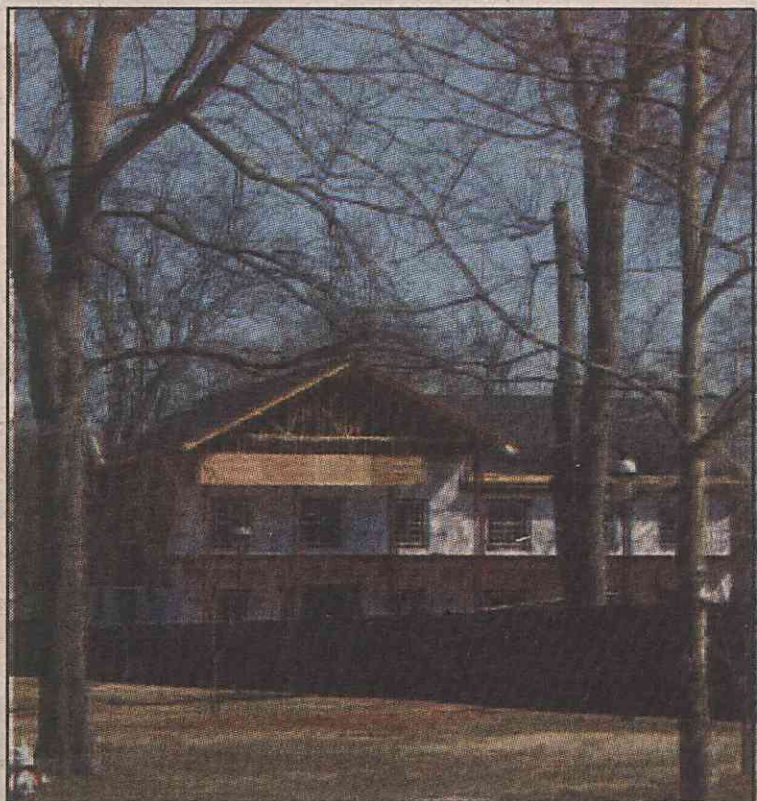


THE PENDULUM

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Administration changes housing application process



Annette Randall/ Photo Editor

The Academic Village will be built in time for students to select it as one of their housing options.

Jennifer Hildebrand
Reporter

Numerous cosmetic and procedural changes have been made to the way students choose their housing arrangements for next year.

Students received their housing packets in their campus boxes this week, and the first change is the setup of those packets.

"The packaging of housing information this year has definitely changed," said Tara Morlando, director of residence life operations and information management. "It is more user friendly. We want the materials to be helpful to all students."

While all forms and a basic description and floor plan of all available residences were placed in campus boxes, the rest of the pertinent housing information is on the Residence Life Web site.

"A companion piece [to the packet] is on the Web," Morlando said. "People will be able to use that information to help navigate the

housing process."

The changes made to the housing materials came from numerous discussions with students, with the main focus being how to make the product match the basic needs of and solve the problems of students during the housing process.

"The packets were helpful because they allowed you to see the housing options in such a way that it was easy to figure out what parts were applicable to your housing situation," sophomore Katy Wright said. "It was a lot more concise and self-explanatory than last year."

Another change in the housing process this year is the opening of five new residences on campus. Another building of flats will be opening in Danieley Center, two upper-classmen apartment buildings will also be available in Danieley and the Honors and International Pavilions in the Academic Village will house students starting in the fall.

For students who may not know where they want to live next year

or for those who want to explore their options, Residence Life has four information sessions in the coming weeks. Two sessions about apartments and two about basic housing will answer any questions students may have.

"We have found that these sessions are very helpful," Morlando said. "Students can come to these sessions and learn more about what is available and what they would need to do for those areas."

Housing selection is phase-based this year, and these four phases are completed in a stepladder format so everything will run smoothly. One difference this year is the way the third and fourth phases are done. The third phase, in-area room selection, and the fourth phase, open-room selection, are now done on a face-to-face basis with Residence Life.

"We have moved away from paper in that section of the process," Morlando said. "It is easier for everyone this way, because we can be more flexible."

Elon receives positive feedback from SACS and NCAA

Erin Cunningham
News Editor

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Collegiate Athletic Association gave Elon positive feedback during visits Feb. 25-28. The two groups were examining the academic and athletic criteria for becoming an accredited institution.

SACS is a regional accrediting association. "Every 10 years, SACS reaffirms accreditation through a two year process," George Troxler, director of cultural programs, said.

If the university was to receive a marginal evaluation, it would be given a year to meet SACS regulations. However, this is an unlikely scenario, according to Troxler. "It

was a positive evaluation," he said. "They were very complimentary of the institution and its growth."

Accreditation is a process all master's level institutions must go through. Without proper accreditation, there could be no federal work-study, the institution would not be able to borrow money and credits would not transfer from other accredited institutions.

A self-study was created by Elon in preparation for the fourteen SACS representatives. Their task was to evaluate and validate the information provided in the study. "They could tell by reading the report what type of institution they were coming to," Troxler said.

The self-study reports on four focus areas: wholeness of the campus, centrality of the arts and sci-

ences, connecting knowledge and experiences and technology.

"The SACS representatives are here to validate what is in the statement," Troxler said. For example, they validate that the percentage of faculty members holding a certain degree is the number published in the report. "We say we do," Troxler said. "They randomly check to see that we do."

To validate the information, a large amount of documentation was hauled to Moseley 215. Everything from summaries of faculty evaluations to class syllabi was looked through. Library material, circulation figures and the financial information supporting the documentation were also of interest to SACS representatives.

The compliance team was in

charge of looking through records. "The compliance people expected to have it on paper," Troxler said. "A lot of time went into gathering information for them."

The focus team gathered information by interviewing groups of students and faculty.

The self-study covers every aspect of the institution. Elon was specially approved to perform an alter-

native self-study. Five percent of overall institutions choose this method, according to Troxler.

There were four committees investigating the four focus areas for the future direction of the university.

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