



Elbow Room

New female residence hall in the works

Story and Photos
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To deal with the issues of overcrowding in the dorms Lindsey Wilson College (LWC) is building a new dorm. This new residents hall is being constructed behind the W.W. Slider Humanities Center between the soccer field and the little kiln house.

As of now, the new residence hall has no official name and construction is still in the early stages. However, LWC officials are excited about the project and the effects it will have around campus.

The new residence hall will be a female facility with between 45-50 beds, a resident director, and two resident assistants.

Based on the information he has, Mike Newton, the director of physical plant operations at LWC, said that the new dorm hall is being built “to try to alleviate some overcrowding.” The overpopulation burden will not completely be taken away, but it will be relieved.

“With the large residential population that we had, it’s the largest ever that we had this past fall with 1145 residents, that created some challenges for a lot of students because they were in rooms that were accommodating more people than what they were set up to accommodate,” Mark Coleman, vice president for administration and finance at LWC said.

Jordan Willis, the director of Residence Life and the men’s area coordinator at LWC, claimed that male space is what was needed the most.

In order to obtain it, half of Draper Apartments is being turned into male housing to make up for the 45-50 female spots in the new dorm hall.

Willis believes this will even things out.

The new residence hall and a half of all of the Draper Apartments have about the same number of beds.

“We did gain male housing,” Willis said. “It just doesn’t look like we did, but we did.”

Newton said that the new residence hall will be a modular building covered by a new outer building. This exterior façade will include porches and a new roof lining.

Newton explained that the benefits of using a modular infrastructure are that it will be very solid and include pre-installed wiring and ductwork that will need minor work to be brought up to current code.

“We had a lot of success with McCandless Hall,” Willis said, “and we think that this is going to be a similar type of facility, except for the brick outside. And I think that’ll even help the building even be stronger.”

The outer shell of the residence hall should fit in well where it is at. Adding brick to the shell will help the building fit in with its surroundings.

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“What you see in that rendering is a different brick color than what it will be,” Coleman said, “but we’re looking to match the same color as Slider, in essence.”

This is supposed to help the campus architecture remain consistent in the way it looks.

“The gentleman who helped us design it [the new dorm hall] is the architect that we’ve been working with for the last ten or so years,” Coleman said.

Willis put faith in the ability of Newton’s

crew to do well at building the new residence hall.

“Mike and those guys usually do a pretty good job,” Willis said. “I mean, you look around on this campus, how many things on this campus you’re just like, ‘oh, that’s ugly?’ You know, I mean, there’s not a lot of things. Mike and those guys do a pretty good job of making sure it lives up to standards, you know and things like that, and that it lives up to living standards, too, for the students.”

On the inside, the new residence hall will contain many of the same features as other ones. A couple of the things Newton mentioned are a director’s apartment and modern common restroom facilities.

“It will have double and triple rooms in the setup,” Coleman said. “It will have a laundry facility included. There will be a lobby with a check-in desk, and some couches, and a TV.”

According to Newton, the new one story residence hall will be approximately 10,000 square feet and is going to be redone with nice ceramic tile.

“We couldn’t exhaust our real estate for a smaller project,” Newton said. “And also... it was a piece of real estate [where the new dorm hall is being built] that really couldn’t be used for anything else. ... It’s about the only option we had right now for a dorm that size.”

A benefit of this location for the future residents of the new residence hall is its close proximity to campus, especially the Katie Murrell Library and the J.L. Turner Leadership Center.

“I think it’s going to add some life to that area of campus,” Willis said. “Where I know you have Phillips and things like that over there, but it’s just gonna add a little more life over there with another facility.”

Willis believes this freshman area will be especially lively during a soccer game when people from Trabue Apartments, McCandless Hall, the library, and the Horton Complex all come out.

Yet even with such benefits, cost is always an important issue to consider. However, according to Coleman, the college will not gather any more debt over the new dorm project because it cannot afford to. The project is being completely paid for through donations.

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“We have probably 80 percent of the funding that we need,” Coleman said. “And we have some other donors that we believe will step up and make the donations that we need.”

Progress on the new dorm hall currently entails bringing in dirt and crushed stone to create a pad. The pad will be a level surface for the building to rest on.

“That pad,” Coleman said, “will basically be flat ground with a slope at the bottom because it’s on a location that’s gonna be on a hill.”

By the 2014 fall semester, the new dorm facility should be officially named and available for females to live in, and the Draper Apartments should be available for males to live in. These spots are on the housing lottery for next year, which requires a \$25 deposit. Resident students interested in the housing lottery can go to the Residence Life office (the “round house”) for more information.

“That’s the thing with campus, it’s a ever-changing kind of place, too,” Willis said. “It’s always changing. Every year things are a little different.”



Mike Newton (left), director of physical plant operations at LWC, discusses blueprints for the new residence hall currently under construction behind W.W. Slider Humanities Center. The site (top), according to Newton, will be built up with dirt and crushed stone to create a pad to hold the building. The new dorm will house 45 to 50 students.