

Off-Campus Student Life Programs: Benchmarking Peer Institutions

The University has worked aggressively over the last decade to develop and refine its Off Campus Student Life (OCSL) program, and continuously strives to enhance the effectiveness of these programs.¹

As part of this effort, the University actively engages colleagues at peer institutions to learn how they are responding to similar challenges. Georgetown University collaborates formally with other institutions as an active member of the International Town Gown Association, the Consortium of Universities, a consortium of institutions in D.C., Maryland and Virginia, and the Community Relations Network, a group of mid-Atlantic universities that meets quarterly to discuss town-gown issues.

Professionals in the Office of Student Affairs also frequently engage their counterparts informally on off-campus student life issues, and have made particular efforts to collaborate with other local universities with similar issues, such as George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University, and with institutions in other parts of the nation that operate in analogous urban settings. This consultation has helped Georgetown to ensure that it remains cognizant of best practices in this area, and to refine and expand its programs in a manner consistent with those best practices.

Attached is a chart summarizing the University's recent benchmarking effort, which was conducted over a period of months via telephone interviews, and supplemented by follow up emails and a review of websites and other publications.

¹ Details of these efforts are summarized in exhibits describing the program's history and development (Exhibit H of the May 12, 2011 submission) and the fall and spring OCSL Semester Reports (Exhibit E of the March 31, 2011 submission, and Tab F of the June 15, 2011 submission).

Benchmarking Off Campus Student Life Programs: Overview of Other Universities Practices

<i>School¹</i>	<i>Hotline</i>	<i>Proactive Neighborhood Patrol</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Structured Relationship w/ Local Police²</i>	<i>Contacts with Landlords</i>	<i>Town Gown Meetings</i>
Georgetown University	X	X	X	X	X	X
American University	Individuals encouraged to call dispatch line at public safety		X (housing fair and workshops)	X	X	X
Boston College	X		X	X	X	X
Brown University					X	X
Catholic University			X (Fall '09)	X	X	
Columbia University	X			X		X
Duke University		X	X	X	X	X (in development)
George Washington University	X			X		X
Johns Hopkins University	X (campus 911)	X	X	X	X	X
Loyola University Chicago	X (campus 911)	X	X (in the process of making it mandatory)	X	X	X

¹ Georgetown conducted benchmarking of other local universities with similar town gown issues, and universities in other parts of the nation that operate in analogous urban settings.

² This category refers to whether the institution actively engages and collaborates with local police to address town gown issues. Georgetown very regularly communicates with MPD, and works collaboratively with the local police to address individual issues and develop effective programs. In addition, the University separately funds three MPD officers (a "reimbursable detail") to patrol the blocks surrounding campus on Thursday through Saturday evenings, and one officer to patrol this area on Sunday through Wednesday evenings. The University proposes increasing this detail to seven officers during the weekend, and two during the weeknights, as part of its rebuttal submission. While the survey the University conducted over the last year of other institutional practices did not capture this program, Georgetown believes that its significant investment in additional police presence makes it exceptional among peer institutions.

<i>School</i>	<i>Hotline</i>	<i>Proactive Neighborhood Patrol</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Structured Relationship w/ Local Police</i>	<i>Contacts with Landlords</i>	<i>Town Gown Meetings</i>
Massachusetts Institute of Technology			No orientations, but some information sessions offered	X	X	
Northwestern University	X			X		X
Princeton University			X	X		X
Santa Clara University			X	X (liaison)	X (informal)	X
St. Joseph's University		X	X	X	X	X
University of Chicago				X		X
University of San Francisco				X	X	
Washington University in St. Louis				X		
Wesleyan University		X	X	X		X (called "Aware")

May 31, 2011

Office of Zoning
Government of the District of Columbia
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairperson Hood,

I am submitting this letter in support of Georgetown University's off campus outreach efforts. As a higher education professional since 2001, I have worked in student affairs at Georgetown University, the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University. At all three institutions of higher learning, I have dealt with issues involving off campus behavior, including the actions of students living off campus.

Of the three Universities I have had the privilege of being employed by, Georgetown University is by far the most proactive in addressing off campus conduct. During my tenure at Georgetown University, I was impressed with how swiftly the Off Campus Student Life office responded to the complaints and/or concerns of the community. Programs such as "SNAP" demonstrate the willingness of Georgetown to go above and beyond the call of duty. SNAP not only provides a physical presence in the neighborhoods around the University, but it also provides a safety net for its student body at the same time. Another example of Georgetown's neighborhood efforts is the creation of the Community Advisor position. From my understanding, positions such as these are rare in higher education.

Whenever a University is situated in an urban setting, there will always be instances where student behavior affects the local community. The question then becomes how well the University in question responds to these incidents. In my opinion, the Off Campus Student Life office has done an admirable job in working with students and community leaders to build safer and more cohesive neighborhoods, and I hope that their efforts will continue to bear fruit.

Sincerely,

Anargiros Rentezelas, Esq.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: OCSL

Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 12:48:06 -0400

From: David Kennedy <ledave@MIT.EDU>

To: lordj@georgetown.edu <lordj@georgetown.edu>

Dear Jeanne—

I am very impressed by the steps Georgetown takes to ensure appropriate behavior by your off campus students, and the response and prevention system you have in place. We do not have anything like that at MIT and I will bring your system to my Dean's attention. As you may know many of our undergraduates are housed on campus and some believe that it is all of them. In actuality approximately 40% of our students live in off campus "Greek" housing. This presents some interesting problems for our relationship with Cambridge, Boston, and Brookline since housing them in Greek letter locations puts the spotlight on them. In addition, they also frequently hold registered events with hundreds of guests which as you can imagine creates additional issues. Neighbors frequently call the town or MIT police and while we investigate every reported instance we cannot respond with the proficiency of your system. There are licensing boards in each city which grant the license to these organizations (as well as our dormitories) so if things get bad enough there is that stick and much of our town gown work is with those Boards.

On another note, I went to law school in DC and lived in the residential part of Georgetown (Whitehaven Parkway) for almost 2 years. I can tell you that every disturbance we felt was from the bar and restaurant crowds on the weekends. From experience we were not welcomed by the neighbors despite our attempts to meet them and it took almost a year before they would even talk to us. I am sure the neighborhood appreciates all your efforts.

Best,

Dave

Dave Kennedy, Director

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