

CNU - NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Concern

As CNU has grown into a residential oriented campus, some students living in the neighborhoods surrounding the campus have become a source of irritation for their fellow citizens, who for many years lived in these neighborhoods without experiencing the different lifestyle of a significant number of college students in their midst. Students living in these neighborhoods have their own concerns about how they are treated by the community. While City departments and university administrators will continue to deal with specific problems through established procedures, more can be done to proactively build a positive sense of community between these Newport News residents and to minimize and mitigate unavoidable tensions which emerge from time to time.

The Proposal

The City Manager and the President of the University will appoint a nine member committee comprised of neighbors, City staff, University staff, and students. The mission of this group shall be to monitor student - neighborhood relations on an ongoing basis, to encourage dialogue between diverse neighbors surrounding the University, and make recommendations to the City Manager and University President for initiatives to promote harmony between student and non-student neighbors.

Structure

The City Manager shall appoint two City staff persons, two area residents, and one business person conducting business in the immediate vicinity of the campus. Similarly, the University President shall appoint two University staff persons and two full-time undergraduate University students. The President and the City Manager shall jointly appoint a committee chairperson from the group of nine appointees. Reappointments or new appointments shall be made annually in the same manner. The City Manager's Office will provide staff support for the work of the group.

Meeting Process

Meetings shall occur quarterly beginning in the spring of 2009. The chairperson shall establish an agenda for each meeting. Along with any other agenda items the chairperson deems appropriate, each agenda shall include the following items at a minimum:

1. Report from City staff
2. Report from University staff
3. Opportunity for questions and comment from public

Meeting dates, times and locations would be publicized and open to the public.