Integrating Campus Climate Data in a Residential Housing Application/Roommate Questionnaire

Abstract: The Department of Residence Life is considering the integration of climate related questions in their application for housing for students. Campus climate is characterized by the current attitudes, behaviors and standards of students, faculty, and staff concerning the level of respect for individual needs, abilities and potential. Campus climate is a key factor in recruitment, satisfaction, productivity, and retention. Texas A&M routinely assesses the campus climate to understand how the campus is perceived and experienced by students, faculty, and staff. While routine assessment is done on the University level, the Department intends to use this data collected in the housing application and within the Roommate Questionnaire in a more regular way to assess retention, recruitment, and satisfaction of services/experience on-campus. The intent of collecting more in-depth data than that of the University around race, religion, political-affiliation, gender identity and express, as well as other identities will be used by the students themselves in roommate selection and this data will be used in regular departmental assessments of student learning. Questions which have been proposed will be shared as well as the roommate questionnaire, and an overview of the student housing application.