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BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVES RESIDENTIAL AND DINING PLANS FOR 2012-13

Houston, February 16, 2012 – The University of Houston campus is gearing up for some exciting changes in the upcoming years as we grow and continue to foster student success. The UHS Board of Regents approved plans and rates for Residential Life and Housing (RLH) and Dining Services during their meeting on Feb. 15, 2012.

Before the plans were presented to the Board of Regents, Residential Life & Housing and Dining Services teamed up to host two Town Hall meetings on Feb. 7 and 8 to present the department’s vision and proposed rates for the upcoming academic year in an open forum. Students, faculty and staff were invited to attend and ask questions following the presentations.

For RLH, residents next year will see a 5 percent increase in housing rates next year. These rates will accommodate facility repairs and improvements, operation costs and enhancements to laundry facilities in the residence halls.

Next year, RLH plans to have laundry included in housing fees for all facilities. Calhoun Lofts residents will also have the costs of electric utilities included in their housing fee. Other changes include television security enhancements and an improved online application process to better serve returning and future residents. Construction will also begin soon on two new residence halls, Cougar Village II and a sophomore housing facility, which will be ready for residents in the summer of 2013.

Dining Services also has big plans for next year, including three new meal plans. The approved dining rates and plans were recommended by the Food Services Advisory Committee. For the 2012-13, students will have the option to purchase All-Access meal plans where they will be able to visit the dining halls multiple times throughout the day with 30-minute intervals. The All-Access 5 will give students unlimited access to the residential restaurants Monday through Friday with $200 in Cougar Cash for a total cost of $1,800 per semester. The All-Access 7 will give unlimited access Monday through Sunday with $100 in Cougar Cash for a total cost of $1,800 per semester. Both plans will also include a set number of guest passes per semester. Dining Services also added the Block 120 plan for commuter students which includes 120 meals in the residential restaurants and $200 in Cougar Cash per semester. Meal plan rates will go up next year between 4.7 to 5.6 percent to accommodate a projected increase in food costs, anticipated maintenance and operations costs as well as upcoming dining projects.
Construction is currently underway for the new residential dining facility on the west side of campus which will be home to Real Food on Campus and a Cougar Xpress Market. Also, Dining Services is gearing up for the renovations to the University Center which will begin in May 2012. A Cougar Xpress Market will open in Energy Research Park in Spring 2012 followed by the opening of Taco Cabana in the new Stadium Parking Garage in Fall 2012.


About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a comprehensive national research institution serving the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. UH serves more than 38,500 students in the nation’s fourth-largest city, located in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region of the country.