



ACUHO-I Talking Points

Submitted February 20, 2009 by Norbert W. Dunkel, ACUHO-I President

- 1. ACUHO-I China Study Tour & Global Housing Summit:** ACUHO-I hosted a study tour in January to China. Twenty-six persons from five countries visited four college and universities in Guangzhou, Guiyang, Beijing, and Shanghai where they experienced and developed an understanding of the structure and practice of higher education and housing in different regions of China, and student needs when studying abroad. ACUHO-I also hosted the Global Housing Summit in Hong Kong that followed the China tour. About 85 senior housing and student affairs staff from 12 countries participated in the five-day summit. The discussion resulted in the development of 8 or more major initiatives. These initiatives will be developed into a final document for ACUHO-I Executive Board consideration later this spring. While at the summit participants had the opportunity to listen to the Hong Kong Housing Authority present on pre-cast concrete construction, toured residence halls on three campuses, and visited a large-scale science park that serves as a technology incubator and features all the tenants of the ACUHO-I 21st Century Project.
- 2. ACUHO-I Membership Offer:** The ACUHO-I Executive Board voted to approve the issuance of complimentary one (1) year Associate Affiliate memberships for individuals who are displaced from their full-time positions within a college housing office due to budget cuts. This membership will allow continued access to the digital version of the Talking Stick magazine and registration discounts as well as access to the ACUHO-I online professional network and other online resources such as the library catalog. The strength of ACUHO-I has always come from the network of professionals and their willingness to support others by sharing news, advice, and knowledge. The decision was made that, during these difficult economic times, the reliance on that network is more important than ever and steps should be taken to retain our highly qualified and dedicated professionals.
- 3. ACUHO-I 2009 Responding to the Economic Conditions:** Guided by a survey of more than 300 ACUHO-I chief housing officers, as well as projection data from the Council of Higher Education Management Associations (CHEMA), the ACUHO-I Executive Board and central office staff closely evaluated the Association's financial position. We now project a potential decrease in anticipated revenue due to economic factors affecting members and customers. Fortunately, all evidence also shows that ACUHO-I is well positioned both financially and structurally to weather this down turn. However, the board made the proactive decision to call for a budget adjustment of approximately 11 percent, to positively affect the Association's current financial position. During this time of economic downturn, it is even more important that our housing operations are

provided the programs, services, and information needed to make informed, knowledgeable decisions. ACUHO-I will continue to provide the necessary tools.

4. **2009 ACUHO-I Annual Conference & Exposition:** Please join us for the ACUHO-I Annual Conference and Exposition in Baltimore, Maryland from June 27 – 30, 2009. The Program Committee chaired by Tom Kane has developed an outstanding line-up of speakers and program sessions. Our keynote speaker is sustainability and environmental activist Robert Kennedy, Jr. Our scholar-in-residence is Dr. Susan Komives and the featured speaker is Dr. George Kuh who will speak on what matters to student success. You will enjoy the diversity of program sessions while meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances. If you are experiencing travel restrictions, consider driving. Baltimore is within driving distance to many colleges and universities on the east coast of the United States.
5. **ACUHO-I Conference Series:** This October, the association offers the ACUHO-I Conference Series. The ACUHO-I Living Learning Programs Conference, ACUHO-I Apartments Conference, and the ACUHO-I/APPA Housing Facilities Conference are great opportunities for continued professional development. We also have developed a new ACUHO-I Business Operations Conference that considers assignments, conference services, marketing, information technology, and business services into their knowledge content. All these conferences will be held in Columbus, Ohio. Please check out the ACUHO-I web page for details. I invite you to attend any of these exciting professional development opportunities.
6. **ACUHO-I Call for Volunteers:** The ACUHO-I Call for Volunteers will take place in late March or early April 2009. We have adjusted how our call will go out to members. We will have a call for volunteers in March to serve for any committee that would begin its work at the Annual Conference and Exposition and we will have a separate call for any committee that begins its work at one of the October conferences. Please look for the specific announcements to arrive on your desktop this spring. Encourage your staff to be professionally engaged with our profession by becoming involved with ACUHO-I.