



NEW STUDENT RESIDENCE



Campus Engagement Summary Report Stage 1: Planning

December 2017

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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE PROJECT

UVic has begun planning for a new residence to provide much-needed housing for undergraduate students. Living on campus assists students with their transition to university, provides academic and social programming and support, and nurtures a strong sense of belonging in the UVic community.

UVic’s Campus Plan guides the physical growth and change on the campus and its outlying lands. The student residence project is the first significant capital project since the [Campus Plan](#) was renewed in 2016. This important project will build on the ideas generated through the Campus Plan and will help achieve our vision as not only an extraordinary academic environment, but also a vibrant and sustainable community that nurtures student experience and well-being.

ABOUT THE PROCESS

We are just at the beginning of the process. Over the next several years, we will engage students, staff, community members, and other stakeholders to help shape plans for the new student residence.



The Stage 1 engagement process kicked off with on-campus engagement with students, staff, and faculty. This report provides a summary of what we heard.

For more information, visit the project website at www.uvic.ca/new-residence.

WHAT WE DID

ON-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

ROUND 1

In an effort to engage the on-campus community - students, staff, faculty- in conversation about the potential a new student residence holds for bringing people together on campus and enhancing the overall student experience, two pop-up engagement events were held:

- October 3, 2017 in the Student Union Building
- October 4, 2017 near the entrance to the Cadboro Commons dining hall.

The pop-ups included an overview informational board, and a series of interactive boards to solicit input on outdoor spaces, shared “pod” spaces, and room furnishings. An online survey was also offered, via iPad, regarding food and meal plan options.

A PowerPoint slide show of other modern student residence buildings on other campuses looped on a laptop to open minds to different scale, height and aesthetic of other recent residence projects.

Heightened awareness and input collected will inform future stages of program development, in particular around outdoor and community space, public realm and sustainability.

ROUND 2

To gather additional input on dining and meal plan options, a second round of on-campus pop-up engagement was conducted. A total of 177 survey responses were completed in this second round.



PROMOTION & AWARENESS RAISING

In an effort to raise awareness of the opportunity to learn more about the new student residence project, and provide input into the room type, furnishings, outdoor spaces and food services, the pop-up events were promoted via:

- posters on campus,
- an email to students living in residence,
- digital signage, and
- social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat).
- An article ran in the Ring newsletter in the September issue, and the Martlet also mentioned the opportunities in an article the week prior.

The events themselves resulted in a Times colonist article on September 28, and a follow-up letter to the editor on September 30, and a number of shares and comments on social media.



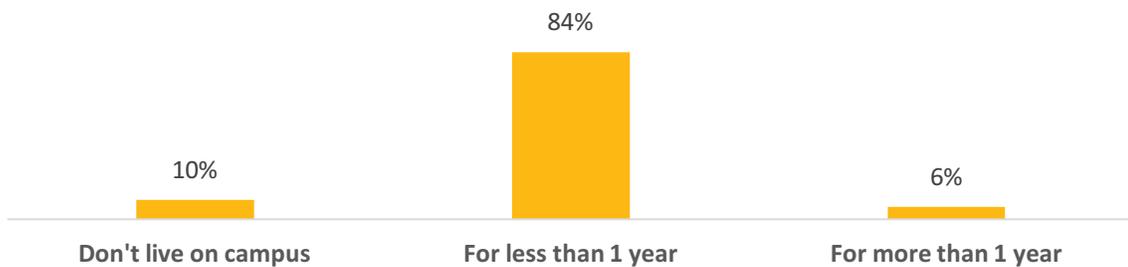
WHO PARTICIPATED

OVERALL 500 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN ON-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

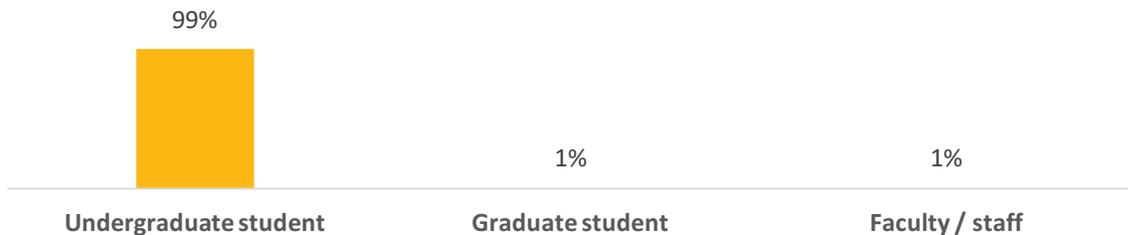
In Round 1, over 339 students provided input over the two days. Those who participated were essentially all current students. Many lived in residence currently or had during their first year. There were a handful of staff who stopped by and asked questions or were interested but did not provide input on the boards or survey.

In Round 2, 177 people completed surveys on dining and meal plan options. Again, the vast majority of survey respondents were undergraduate students who had lived on campus for less than a year.

Do you live on campus? If so, for how long?



Tell us about you



WHAT WE HEARD

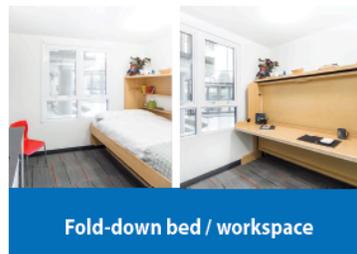
Participants were asked to review some sample images, ‘vote’ on their preferences, and share open-ended comments on the following topics:

- Room Furnishings
- Outdoor Spaces
- Shared/Pod Spaces
- Food & Meal Plan Options

The following provides a summary of what we heard for each key topic.

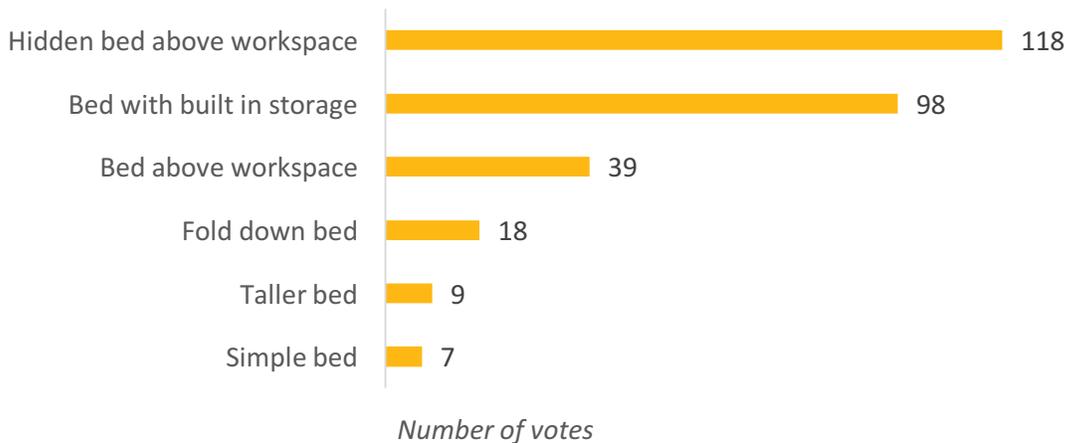
ROOM FURNISHINGS

Which of these furnishings do you most prefer? Vote to tell us your top choice and provide comments to let us know why you feel this way.



PREFERENCES

The majority of participants preferred the ‘hidden bed’ and ‘bed with built in storage’. The least preferred options were the ‘simple bed’ and the ‘taller bed without integrated storage space’. Comments emphasized the importance of using space efficiently and keeping things simple for students to use and keep clean, without having to purchase their own storage.



Hidden bed above workspace

- ladder a hassle
- efficient use of space

Beds with built-in storage

- Would be very handy (2 comments)
- Way more efficient for space (2 comments)
- Nice and simple – storage under bed works well.
- Really nice to not have to purchase under the bed storage

Fold-down bed & bed above workspace:

- maximizes space but less comfortable and difficult to wipe clean

Taller bed:

- smart!

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

What else should we consider for student rooms in a new student residence?

- Lots of power plugs
- Less harsh lighting
- Window planter boxes
- More rooms for graduate students. Very hard to communicate with landlords when you are from a different country.
- Ditch carpet – vile
- U of C Yammuska Hall- lovely layout. Double beds raised with storage underneath.

OUTDOOR SPACES

Which of these features would you most like to see in a new student residence building? Vote to tell us your top 3 choices and provide comments to let us know why you feel this way.



Casual lawn space for light recreation



Covered outdoor spaces



Outdoor seating and gathering places



Outdoor games (ie., volleyball, basketball)



Sustainable features (ie., native plants, rainwater garden)



Activate pedestrian paths (lighting, seating, plants)



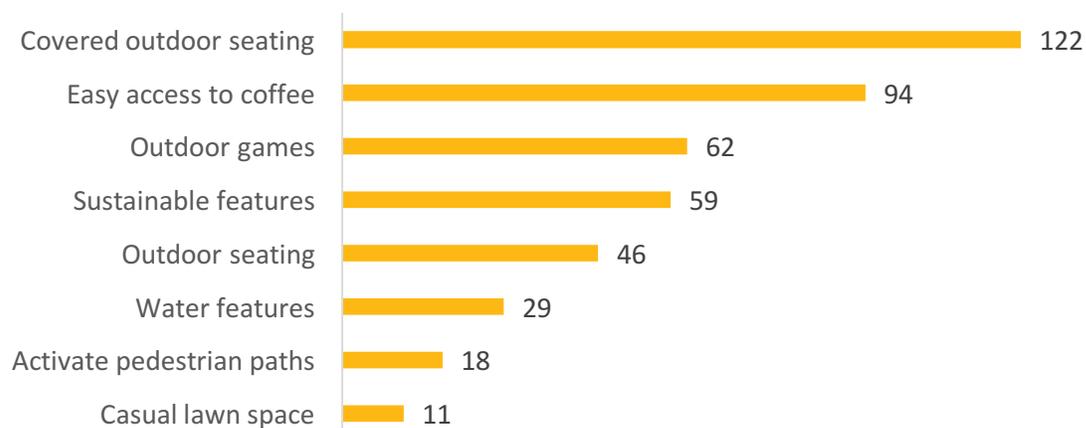
Water features



Easy access to food / coffee

PREFERENCES

The majority of participants selected ‘covered outdoor seating’ and ‘easy access to coffee’ as their top options for outdoor spaces while ‘casual lawn space’ and ‘activated pedestrian paths’ were the least favoured. Comments focused on providing spaces for people to gather and socialize, connect with nature, and play while integrating amenities like food/coffee, seating, and electrical outlets.



Number of votes

Covered outdoor seating:

- Would enable people to spend time outdoors year-round and stay there longer!
- Incorporate shade plants under covered areas
- Include plenty of electrical outlets
- Love the extra common space to enjoy the beautiful outdoors
- BBQ nights, party space, relaxing

Easy access to coffee:

- More/better access to coffee and food, including evenings/weekends (3 comments)
- Coffee with seating (2 comments)
- Good quality coffee espresso

Outdoor games:

- Would love a beach volleyball court
- Promote play/physical activity

Sustainable features:

- Love this! Gardens not only sustainable but also support food production, greenery, connection with nature, and outdoor gathering (5 comments)
- Yes, sustainability is very important (3 comments)
- Sustainable/native plants and low water consumption, not just grass (2 comments)

Outdoor seating:

- More places for groups (benches, tables etc.)
- More outdoor seating, covered and open

Activate pedestrian paths

- Lots of bike paths please
- Use established rack designs
- Doesn't need to be fancy
- Integrate outlets near seating

Casual Lawn Space:

- Promote recreation! Physical activity

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

What else would you like to see included outside a new student residence?

- More seating (2 comments)
- Better lighting for walking at night (2 comments)
- Outdoor areas that are dry and covered
- Beach sports
- Grow food in these spaces for the UVSS food bank

SHARED SPACES / PODS

In addition to room furnishings and outdoor spaces, participants were introduced to a new potential form of housing called ‘pods’ - larger units to house more students with individual rooms but with more shared amenities like full kitchens, social and lounge spaces, study spaces, and shared bathrooms.

As with previous topics, participants were shown a variety of images and asked what they liked about different aspects. They were then asked if they would like to live in pod-style accommodations and what else we should consider for these types of shared spaces.

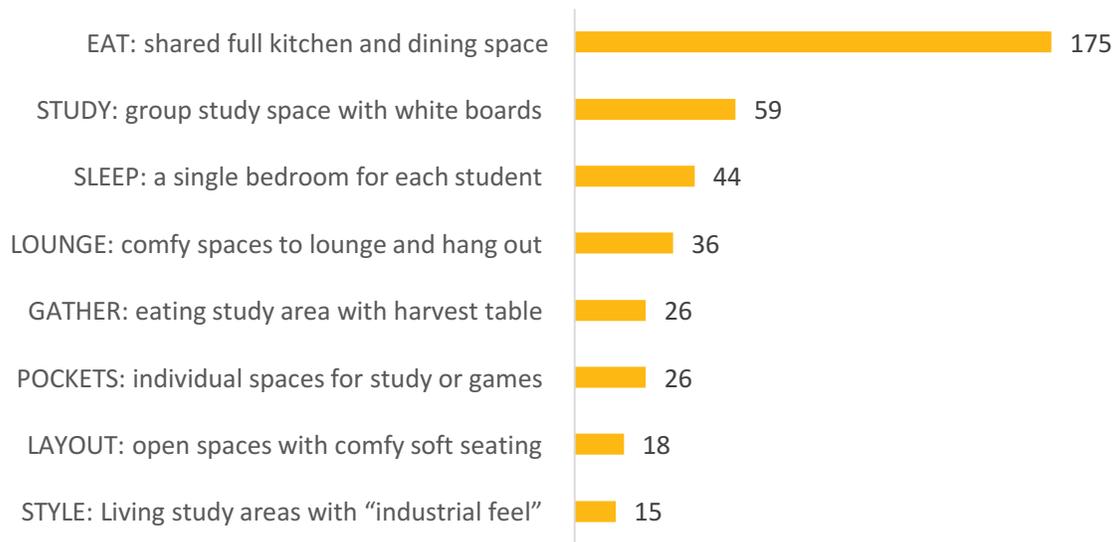
Which of these features do you like? Provide comments to let us know what you like about them.



PREFERENCES

There was a lot of interest from participants about the idea of pods. ‘Shared kitchen space’ emerged as the feature that resonated most with students, followed by ‘group study spaces’, ‘single bedrooms’, and ‘lounge spaces’. Comments generally supported the idea of pods, emphasizing the need for better access to food/cooking and communal social areas.

A few issues that were raised included the need for family housing, concerns about keeping shared spaces/kitchens clean, accommodating people with allergies in shared kitchens, and integrating safety measures like fire alarms for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.



Number of votes

EAT: shared full kitchen and dining space

- Limit access to shared kitchen to keep clean (2 comments)
- Love the idea of kitchens but concerns about keeping it clean (2 comments)
- Lots of kitchen space is needed for 10 or more people
- Food is community! Many students would enjoy full kitchen for communal meals
- Kitchens need to accommodate people with food allergies

STUDY: group study space with white boards

- Easier for people to study and learn together (2 comments)
- Like the natural lighting
- Nice to have separation of study and relaxing
- This would be awesome

SLEEP: a single bedroom for each student

- Large rooms (2 comments)
- Thermostat needed in each room

LOUNGE: comfy spaces to lounge and hang out

- Seating that is arranged in a social way makes it easier to meet people

GATHER: eating study area with harvest table

- Love the community aspect of the kitchen island and harvest table (2 comments)
- Study and eating areas should be separate
- Protected (indoor) easy access to secure bike storage! Too many thefts

POCKETS: individual spaces for study or games

- Quiet place for rest during days on campus
- Include TV inputs for ease of setting up personal consoles

LAYOUT: open spaces with comfy soft seating

- Lots of seating

STYLE: Living study areas with “industrial feel”

- Looks like a nice version of Edmonton

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Would you live in a pod?

- Heck yeah!
- Yes, leads to discussion and being more open with other people
- I really enjoyed living in Lansdowne building because we all formed tight bonds with our small group
- Family housing needs attention

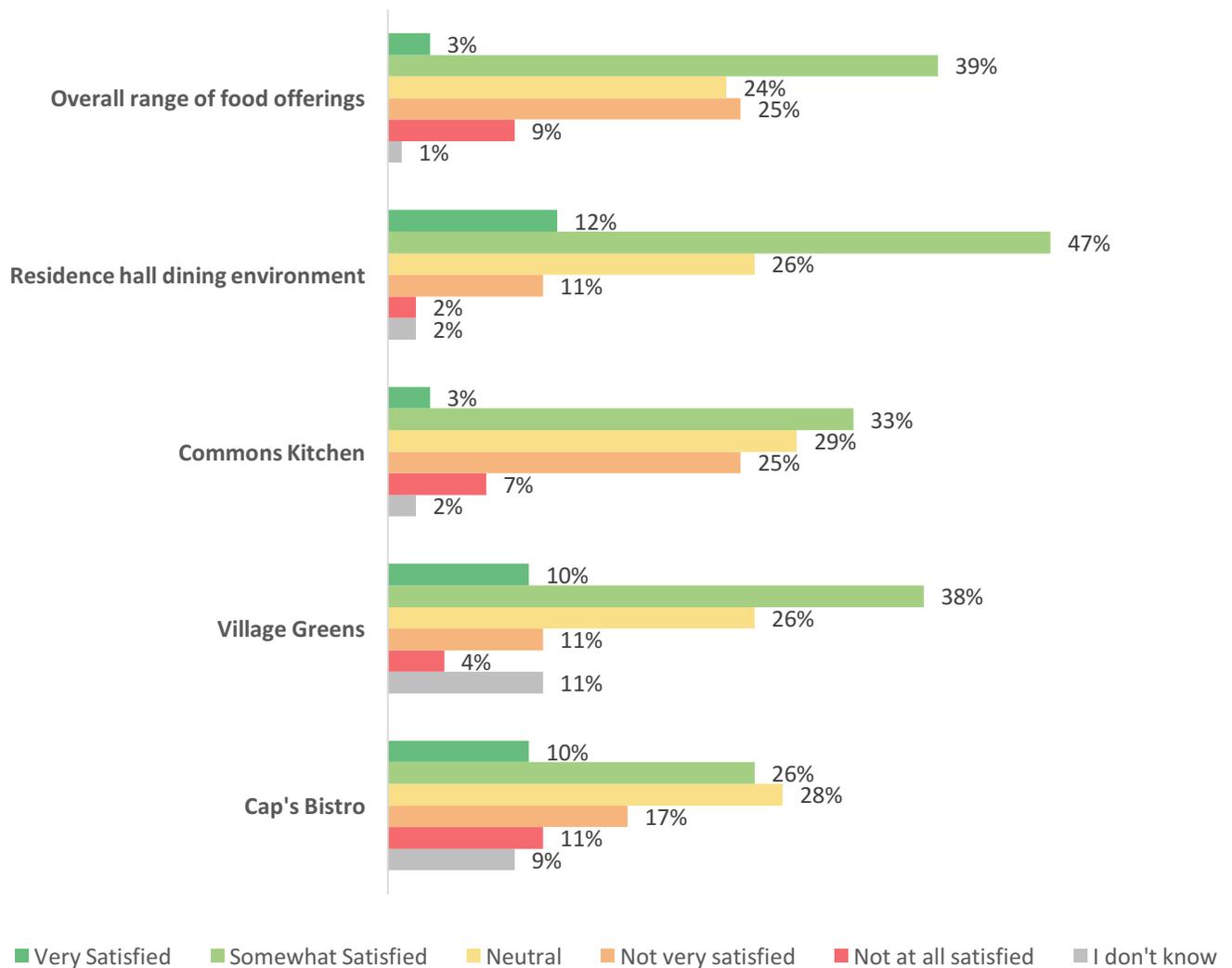
What else should we consider for pods?

- Food and cooking
 - 24-hour food (14 others agreed with this comment)
 - Group meals, potluck holidays
 - Affordable food!
 - Let us cook please!
- Layout / amenities
 - Room with attached bathroom
 - Gym in residence building
 - Communal social area
- Features
 - Internet/routers for each pod
 - Love whiteboards!
- Other considerations
 - Need fire alarms that work for people who are deaf/heard of hearing in pods as well as in open spaces

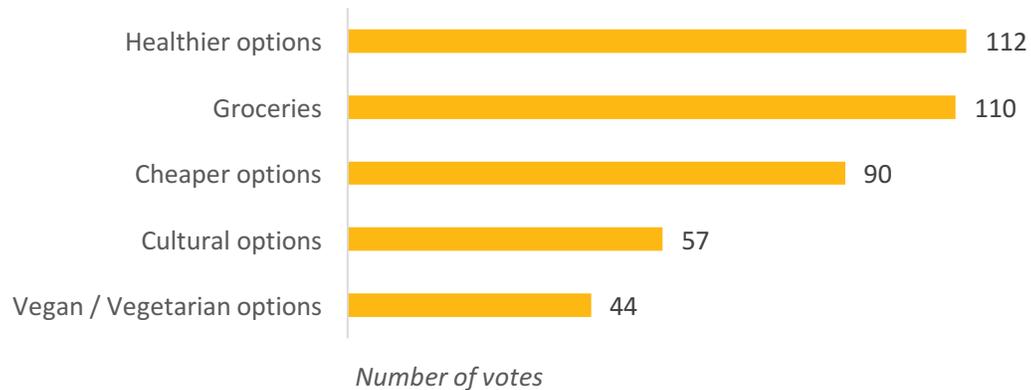
FOOD OPTIONS

In addition to the interactive display boards, we also asked participants to complete a short survey about food preferences related to a new student residence. As a limited number of surveys were completed in Round 1, a second round of engagement was done on campus to gather more detailed input on food options. These results have been combined (213 surveys total) and summarized below.

How satisfied are you with the current food offerings in the existing residence dining meal plan?



When you go off campus for food, what types of food do you look for?

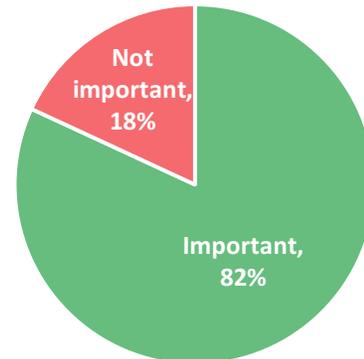


Other options / additional details:

- **More variety:** different choices, more options (13 comments)
- **Better quality:** good tasting food (10 comments)
- **Healthier:** Fresh food, fruits and vegetables, smoothies, lighter options (8 comments)
- **Specific items:**
 - Fast food or specific franchises (3 comments)
 - Dairy free (2 comments)
 - Body building meal plan
 - Environmentally friendly options
- **More cultural options**
 - Asian: Chinese, Japanese/Sushi, Vietnamese, Thai (7 comments)
 - Italian (2 comments)
 - Halal meat
- **Cheaper:** Students don't have a lot of money, need cheaper options (5 comments)
- **Groceries:**
 - Snacks for room (2 comments)
 - Don't get groceries, nowhere to put them (2 comments)
 - Toiletries, household supplies
- **Other:**
 - Better hours, open later (2 comments)
 - All of the above
 - Depends
 - Any reason to get off campus
 - Would like to order food in
 - Family meals

How important is a meal plan and dining hall in the new residence?

Tell us why you feel this way:



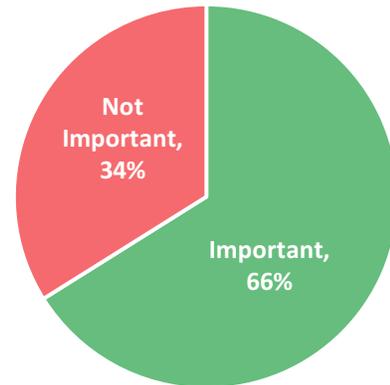
- **Important:**
 - Important, we all need to eat (15 comments)
 - Convenient (16 comments)
 - Important, we need more options on campus (12 comments)
 - Limited options for cooking or groceries if you don't live in a cluster (7 comments)
 - Critical for new students (7 comments)
 - Students need cheap options, can't afford to go off campus (6 comments)
 - An important part of campus life, a place to meet people and socialize, teaches students how to manage money (4 comments)
 - Options for small / reduced meal plan would be nice (4 comments)
 - Current hall outdated

- **Not Important:**
 - Current offerings are fine/good enough (11 comments)
 - Focus on student housing, would rather see investment in housing than food or shared spaces (2 comments)
 - Current dining hall rarely at capacity

- **Other / General comments:**
 - Want to be able to cook my own food too (11 comments)
 - Need better quality food and healthier options (6 comments)
 - More like Mystic Market, with a discount (2 comments)
 - Like a discount
 - Need more options in general
 - Hard to figure out food your first year, no grocery store on campus
 - Meal plan is overpriced

How important is a coffee shop in the new residence?

Tell us why you feel this way:



- **Important:**
 - Important, coffee is essential for students! (40 comments)
 - A great environment to gather, hang out, or study (23 comments)
 - Would be convenient to have in residence (5 comments)
 - Good to have more options for snacks and food too (3 comments)

- **Not Important:**
 - Not important, there are already lots of options on campus (16 comments)
 - Don't drink coffee (9 comments)
 - Would be nice but less important than meal plan (3 comments)

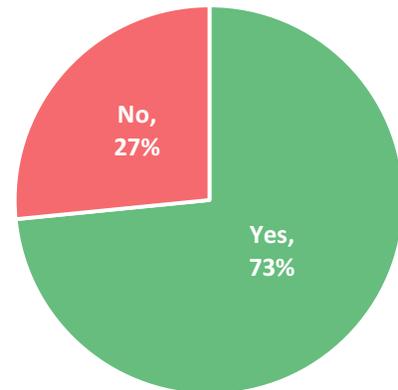
- **Other / General comments:**
 - Must be good, quality coffee (6 comments)
 - Must be affordable (5 comments)
 - Something open late would be great, need longer hours (4 comments)
 - Would be nice but not essential (2 comments)

What types of food offerings and dining environment would you like to see?



If you lived in a pod (larger unit with access to a full shared kitchen), would you still be interested in any type of meal plan?

Tell us why you feel this way:



- **Yes, interested in meal plan**
 - Nice to have options, partial meal plan and option to cook would be great (21 comments)
 - Meal plan is convenient for busy students (34 comments)
 - Can't cook or don't like cooking (3 comments)
 - Healthier than fast food or other quick and easy options (2 comments)
 - More affordable, saves money (2 comments)
 - If the food is good and well-priced

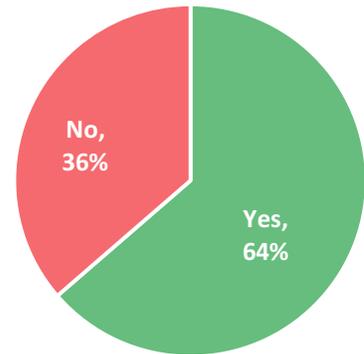
- **No, not interested in meal plan**
 - Prefer/enjoy cooking my own meals (21 comments)
 - Want to eat healthier, better food (7 comments)
 - Cheaper to cook myself (9 comments)
 - More variety, can make whatever I want, vegan options, etc. (6 comments)
 - Convenient to cook in your own unit
 - Can eat whenever I want
 - Could supplement home-cooking with Mystic Market

- **Other / General comments**
 - Depends on access/cleanliness/storage of shared kitchens (3 comments)
 - Would like to be able to cook, make fresh meals when I want (2 comments)
 - Not important to have a meal plan but discount would be nice
 - Prefer separate kitchen, better hygiene

Would you buy a partial meal plan (with a discount based on how often you use it)?

For example:

- **Purchase 10 meals a week (10% discount)**
- **Purchase 15 meals a week (15% discount)**
- **Purchase 20 meals a week (20% discount)**



- **Yes, interested in partial meal plan based on frequency**
 - Like the convenience (14 comments)
 - Like the discount, could help save money (11 comments)
 - Yes, nice to have options other than full meal plan and cooking (7 comments)
 - Generally, sounds good (4 comments)
 - Makes sense for people who live on campus or who eat a lot (3 comments)

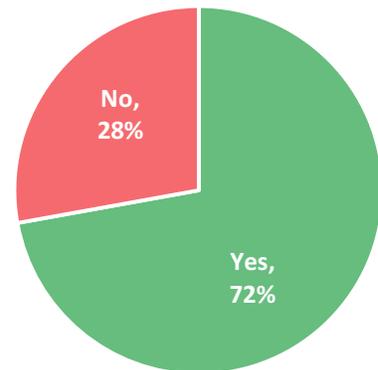
- **No, not interested**
 - Still too expensive, not worth it, prefer 50% discount (12 comments)
 - Don't eat that much or eat small meals, not worth it (7 comments)
 - Prefer full meal plan, happy with current meal plan (7 comments)
 - Prefer an account with a balance (2 comments)
 - Would rather cook myself (2 comments)
 - Don't want to have to commit to number of meals per week
 - Don't want to buy any food on campus

- **Other / General comments:**
 - Prefer a set discount, regardless of full or partial meal plan
 - I would want to choose how many meals per week
 - Food on campus isn't very good
 - Feel that this incentivizes people to eat more
 - Want to be able to cook too

Would you buy a partial meal plan (with a discount based on how much you pre-purchase)?

For example:

- \$200 (10% discount)
- \$300 (15% discount)
- \$400 (20% discount)



- **Yes, interested in partial meal plan based on pre-purchase**
 - Like the flexibility, better than the weekly option (11 comments)
 - Like the convenience (10 comments)
 - Like the discount, could help save money (6 comments)
 - Like either of the partial meal plan options (3 comments)
 - Yes, nice to have options other than full meal plan and cooking (2 comments)
 - Generally, sounds good (2 comments)
 - Seems easier to track

- **No, not interested**
 - No plan, prefer to buy food elsewhere or cook (5 comments)
 - Still too expensive, not worth it, prefer set discount (5 comments)
 - Prefer full meal plan, happy with current meal plan (3 comments)
 - Prefer a use-based system (3 comments)
 - Harder to track (2 comments)

- **Other / General comments:**
 - Depends, not sure how much I'm going to spend on food
 - I want to choose the amount
 - Not sure which option I'd prefer
 - Would like the option to increase discount over time

Next Steps

These ideas will be used to shape early directions for the new student residence.

Over the next several years, there will be many opportunities for students, staff, community members, and other stakeholders to share their ideas and help shape plans for the new student residence.



STAY TUNED AT WWW.UVIC.CA/NEW-RESIDENCE FOR DETAILS.