



# KPU Student Housing

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

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## INTRODUCTION

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) is a post-secondary institution operating in Metro Vancouver in the region south of the Fraser River, which overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qay'Qayt, and Kwikwetlem peoples. KPU is Canada's only polytechnic university, offering traditional academic education and technical training across its five campuses—Surrey, Tech (Cloverdale), Langley, Richmond, and Civic Plaza.

KPU is working on its first Student Housing Strategy, to plan for potential future on campus student housing facilities. The university is also working on preparing a funding proposal to the Provincial Government to secure the necessary resources needed to potentially deliver KPU's first student housing building on the Surrey Campus.

The project aims to provide a safe and comfortable living environment for students, enabling them to focus on their studies and extracurricular activities. The university has been working with a team of architects and engineers to design and construct housing facilities that will cater to the needs of students. The housing project is expected to provide affordable and quality housing for students. Additionally, on-campus housing can help create a sense of community among students and promote social interaction, essential for personal growth and development.

To ensure the project's success, input from KPU students is especially important in informing these projects. The university has been engaging with students and seeking their input to understand their needs and preferences. It is expected that the project will make a positive impact on the quality of life for students on campus.

## OVERVIEW

The engagement was led by Campus and Community Planning. The purpose of the engagement was to gather feedback from students regarding the potential features of future KPU housing facilities. The findings and insights gained through this engagement process will contribute to the design and planning of housing projects to better meet the needs of KPU's student population. The input received will also help inform KPU's understanding of student expectations for on-campus housing.



This report presents a summary of the student engagement activities that were conducted for KPU's on-campus student housing project. The student engagement was conducted from 11am to 3pm at Surrey Campus in the lounge area opposite Tim Hortons between April 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. To ensure maximum interaction with university students, the drop-in session included boards along with some refreshments for students (See Appendix B). There was a QR code on the board. These QR codes were linked to Google Forms, which contained the same information that was displayed on the boards. By scanning the QR codes, students could access the Google Forms and provide their feedback online. This online feedback mechanism served as a convenient and efficient option for participants to share their thoughts, suggestions, and opinions. The engagement fostered a positive and constructive environment, allowing the students and staff to actively participate in sharing their thoughts and ideas.

Emails were sent to the students and staff regarding the engagement that would be taking place on campus. The interactive boards were designed to facilitate active participation and engagement from the participants. Sticky notes and stickers were available for students to use which provided an opportunity for students to share their thoughts and ideas.

## ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS & WHAT WE HEARD

### **KPU STUDENT HOUSING**

KPU is working on its first Student Housing Strategy, to plan for potential future student housing facilities for our campuses. We are also working on preparing a funding proposal to the Provincial Government to secure the necessary resources needed to potentially deliver KPU's first student housing building at our Surrey Campus. Input from KPU students is very important in informing these projects.

**Please share your thoughts on student housing at KPU!**

**Which is your favorite activity or hobby?**

**Where do you spend most of your time outside of class?**

**STICK YOUR ANSWER**

**Do you have any specific housing needs or preferences? (e.g., accessibility features, gender specific housing, quiet floors)**



*Scan me to provide feedback!*

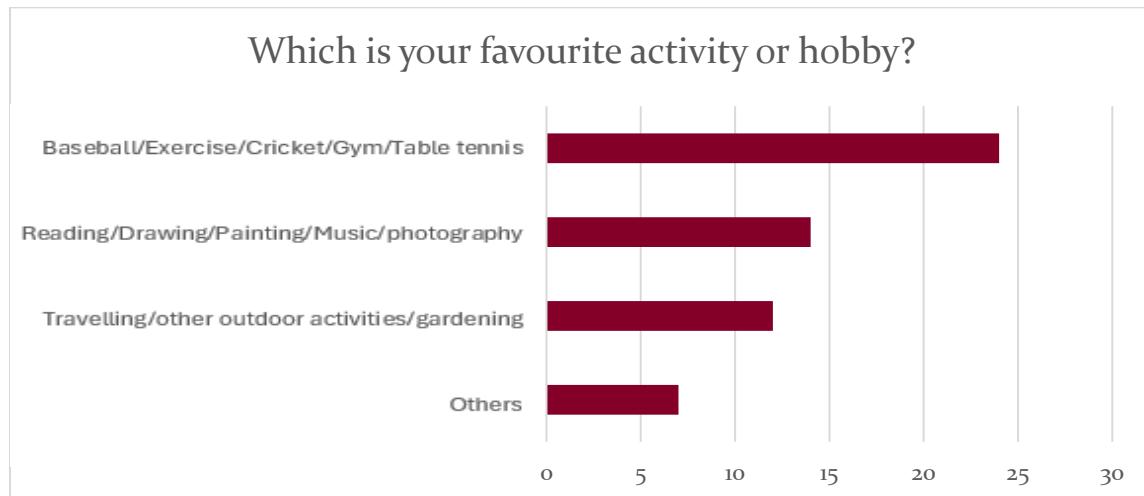


The intent of these questions was to help determine the interests and habits of potential student residents, which can help in developing a community that caters to their needs and preferences. Additionally, asking about specific housing needs and preferences, such as accessibility features, gender-specific housing, and quiet floors, can help ensure that the housing provided is inclusive and accommodating for all students. This will help create a more personalized and comfortable living experience for students in on-campus housing. This will create a sense of community among students, as well as foster a more positive living environment. It will also help ensure that students have access to housing that meets their needs and is conducive to a successful university experience.

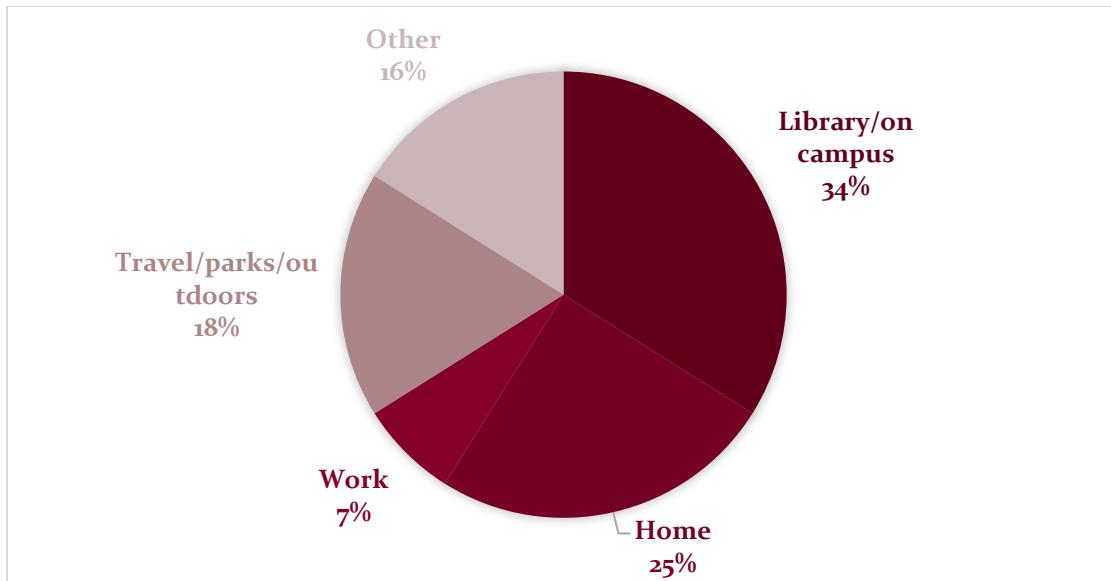
## Which is your favourite activity or hobby?

For student housing on campus, knowing a student's favourite activity or hobby can help KPU better understand the student's interests and preferences, which can help provide them with a comfortable experience. This can be especially important for first-year students or international students who may feel isolated or homesick.

The majority of the responses indicated that the students enjoyed engaging in outdoor activities. Some of the most popular activities mentioned were hiking, sports, and spending time in nature. Some students also mentioned hobbies such as reading, art, and music.



## Where Do You Spend Most of Your Time Outside of Class?

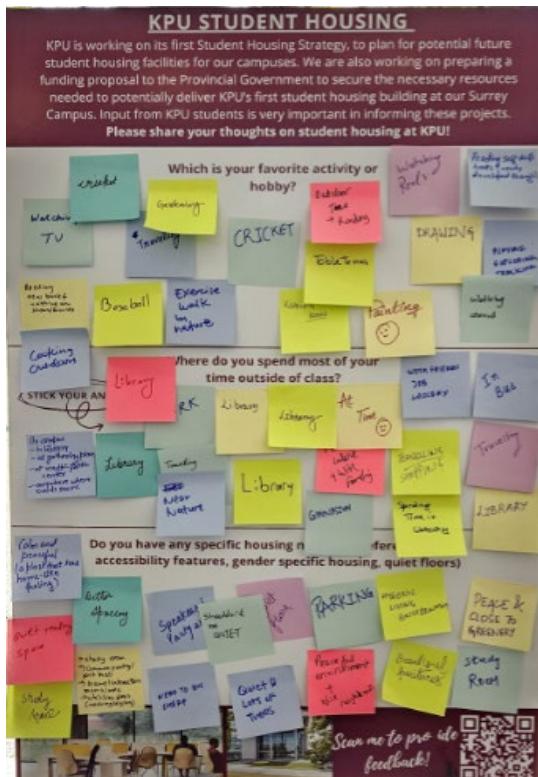


The students generally indicated they spent a significant amount of time in their home, in the library and travelling. Many students mentioned socializing with friends, studying, and exploring campus. Playing different sports was also one of the most enjoyed activities where students would spend their time outside of class.

Where do you spend most of your time outside of class?

Library/on campus	19
Home	14
Work	4
Travel/parks/outdoors	10
Other	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>

## Do you have any specific housing needs or preferences? (e.g., accessibility features, gender specific housing, quiet floors)



Suggestions such as the need for free parking space, internet and on campus job opportunities for students living on campus were also provided.

On the topic of housing needs and preferences, students expressed a desire for comfortable and accessible accommodations with all basic utilities available in the building, such as a kitchen, laundry, and gym equipment. Some students also mentioned a preference for areas conducive to studying.

Do you have any specific housing needs or preferences?	
Quiet Spaces/Study Spaces	20
Interactive spaces	4
Parking	2
Utilities (Laundry, Gym. etc.)	20
Transit accessibility	3
Other (Near Nature, sunlight, etc.)	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

Please use stickers or sticky notes to provide feedback

Do you feel like the campus offers a sense of community and belonging?	yes	no
outdoors	indoors	Do you prefer being indoors, outdoors, or a mix of both?
Are you interested in a meal plan?	yes	no
yes	no	Do you have specific dietary needs or preferences?
How long would you prefer to stay in campus housing?	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years



Scan and provide your feedback!

Please use stickers or sticky notes to provide feedback

Do you feel like the campus offers a sense of community and belonging?	yes	no
outdoors	indoors	Do you prefer being indoors, outdoors, or a mix of both?
Are you interested in a meal plan?	yes	no
yes	no	Do you have specific dietary needs or preferences?
How long would you prefer to stay in campus housing?	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years



Scan and provide your feedback!

## Do you feel like the campus offers a sense of community and belonging?

The majority of the responses indicated a positive perception of campus community and belonging. Many students appreciated the diverse range of activities, events, and opportunities to engage with the campus community. They mentioned feeling a sense of belonging through their involvement in clubs and other social activities.

Do you feel like the campus offers a sense of community and belonging?

	Total
Yes	43
No	8

### **Do you prefer being indoors, outdoors, or a mix of both?**

The responses indicated a preference for being outdoors. Students also mentioned enjoying activities such as walking, jogging, and exercising outside. Additionally, some students mentioned enjoying the fresh air and spending time in nature.

Do you prefer being indoors, outdoors, or a mix of both?	
	Total
Outdoors	45
Indoors	33

### **Are you interested in a meal plan?**

The majority of students expressed interest in a meal plan, while others preferred the flexibility to cook their meals. Some students specifically requested vegetarian or vegan options, while others mentioned particular dietary needs or preferences. Additionally, there were some students who had no dietary requirements or preferences.

Are you interested in a meal plan?	
	Total
Yes	49
No	13

Do you have specific dietary needs or preferences?	
	Total
Yes	21
No	39

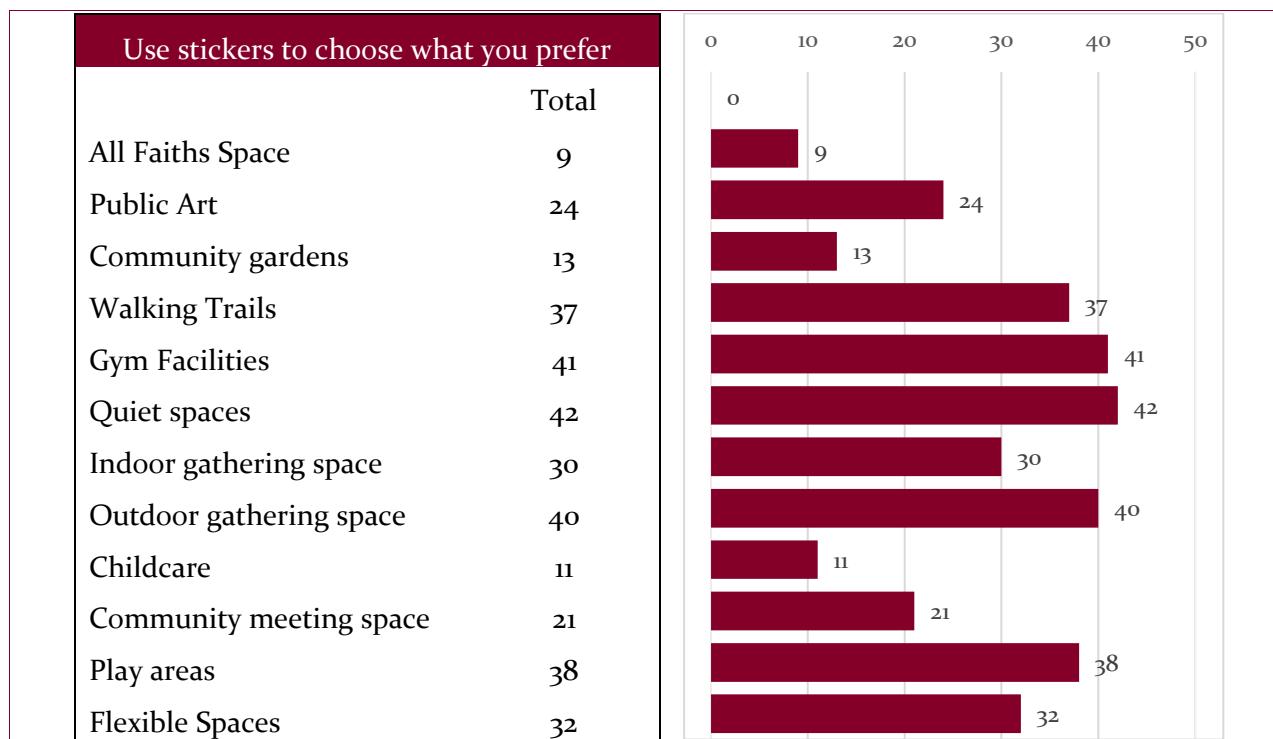
### **How long would you prefer to stay in campus housing?**

The students were asked how long they would prefer to stay in campus housing. Some expressed a desire to stay for the entire duration of their program, while others preferred to explore off-campus housing options after one to two years of study, with the flexibility to extend their stay if necessary.

How long would you prefer to stay in campus housing?	
	Total
1 to 2 years	36
3 to 4 years	17



The data collected reflects community preferences for various features based on sticker choices. Asking students about the places they would prefer to have in their housing building will help in understanding their expectations and whether certain features are particularly important for them to have in their housing.



The most favored option was quiet spaces, which received significant support, closely followed by gym facilities and outdoor gathering spaces. Other popular spaces included walking trails and play areas, indicating a strong desire for recreational opportunities. Additionally, flexible spaces and indoor gathering areas were well-received, highlighting the community's interest in versatile environments for various activities. Community-oriented options such as community meeting spaces and public art also attracted attention, though to a lesser extent. Meanwhile, community gardens, childcare and all faiths space options received the least number of votes.

## Which area of campus do you spend most of your time in?

	Total
Courtyard	19
KSA Grass Roots Café	8
KPU Library	44
The Gathering Place	7
Tim Horton's	28
Cafeteria	9
Gymnasium	23
Commons	9



Asking students which area of campus they spend most of their time in can provide valuable insights that inform the design of the first student housing project, helping to identify which areas are most important to students and what amenities they value. For example, if many students spend a lot of time in the library, it may be worth considering adding quiet study spaces to the housing project. Similarly, if students spend a lot of time in the gym or athletic facilities, it may be worth considering incorporating fitness amenities into the housing project. By taking these preferences into account, the first student housing project can be designed to meet the specific needs of students and provide a comfortable living experience. The students voted for Tim Horton's and the courtyard as the areas where they spend most of their time. This may indicate that students like places where they can socialize and spend time indoors and outdoors.

## **Summary**

The students' responses to these questions have provided valuable insights into their preferences, needs, and perceptions of the campus community. The importance of a wide range of amenities and facilities within or near the housing project was highlighted.

The students expressed a strong interest in outdoor activities, preferring to spend time in nature and engaging in activities such as hiking and sports, and utilizing recreational areas such as sports courts and green spaces. They appreciated the proximity of housing to public transport. They expressed a desire for comfortable and accessible housing, quiet floors, spacious and well-designed rooms, modern amenities, laundry facilities, fitness centers, and dedicated spaces for relaxation and meditation. Students also expressed a desire for a sense of community within the campus, and were interested in the inclusion of shared spaces for socializing and studying, such as lounges, study rooms, and communal kitchens. Many students were interested in a meal plan, while some preferred to have the flexibility to cook their own meals.

Lastly, the students were divided in their preference regarding the duration of their stay in campus housing, with some preferring to stay for the entire duration of their program, while others preferred to explore off-campus housing options.

Please refer to Appendix A and Appendix B for pictures.

## APPENDIX A

### **KPU STUDENT HOUSING**

KPU is working on its first Student Housing Strategy, to plan for potential future student housing facilities for our campuses. We are also working on preparing a funding proposal to the Provincial Government to secure the necessary resources needed to potentially deliver KPU's student housing building at our Surrey Campus.

Input from KPU students is very important in informing these projects.

**Please share your thoughts on student housing at KPU!**

**Which is your favorite activity or hobby?**

---

**Where do you spend most of your time outside of class?**



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**Do you have any specific housing needs or preferences? (e.g., accessibility features, gender specific housing, quiet floors)**



*Scan me to provide feedback!*



**Please use stickers or sticky notes to provide feedback**

**Do you feel like the campus offers a sense of community and belonging?**

**yes**

**no**

**outdoors**

**indoors**

**Do you prefer being indoors, outdoors, or a mix of both?**

**Are you interested in a meal plan? Do you have specific dietary needs or preferences?**

**yes**

**no**

**1 to 2 years**

**3 to 4 years**

**How long would you prefer to stay in campus housing?**



**Scan and provide your feedback!**

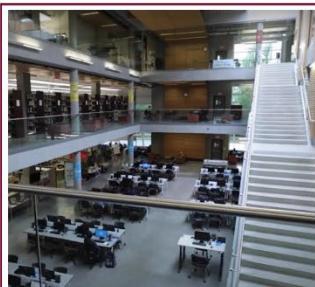
## WHICH AREA OF THE CAMPUS DO YOU SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME IN?



Courtyard



KSA Grass Roots Cafe



KPU Library



The Gathering Place



Tim Horton's



Cafeteria



Gymnasium



Commons

Don't see your option?  
Stick your answer here



Use stickers to choose what you prefer



INDOOR GATHERING SPACE



OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACE



CHILDCARE



COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE



PLAY AREAS



FLEXIBLE SPACES

Use stickers to choose what you prefer



ALL FAITHS SPACE



PUBLIC ART



COMMUNITY GARDENS



WALKING TRAILS



GYM FACILITIES



QUIET SPACES

## APPENDIX B

# KPU STUDENT HOUSING

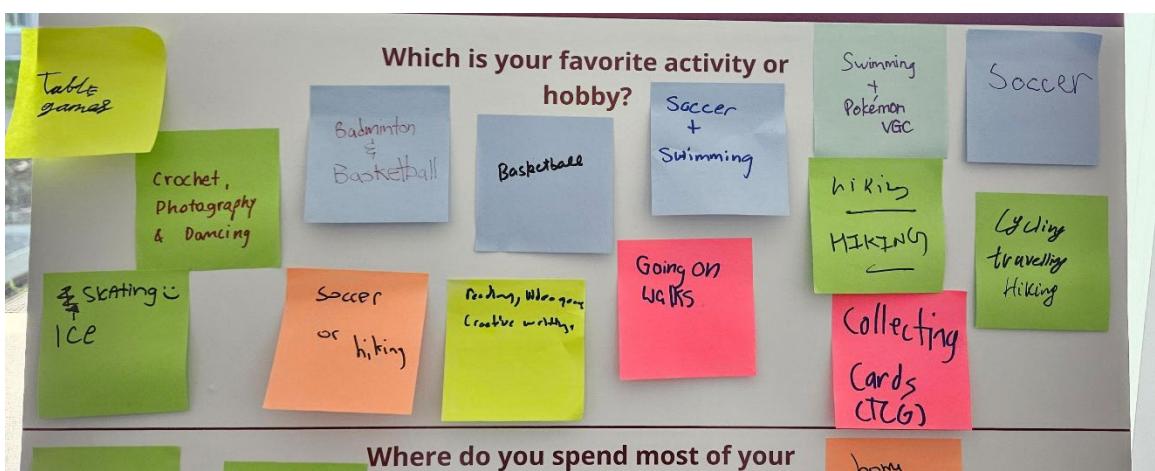
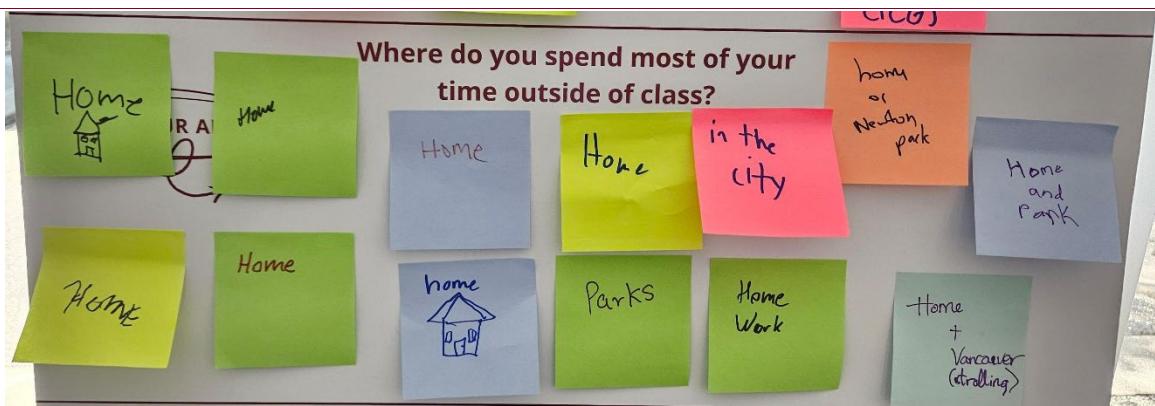
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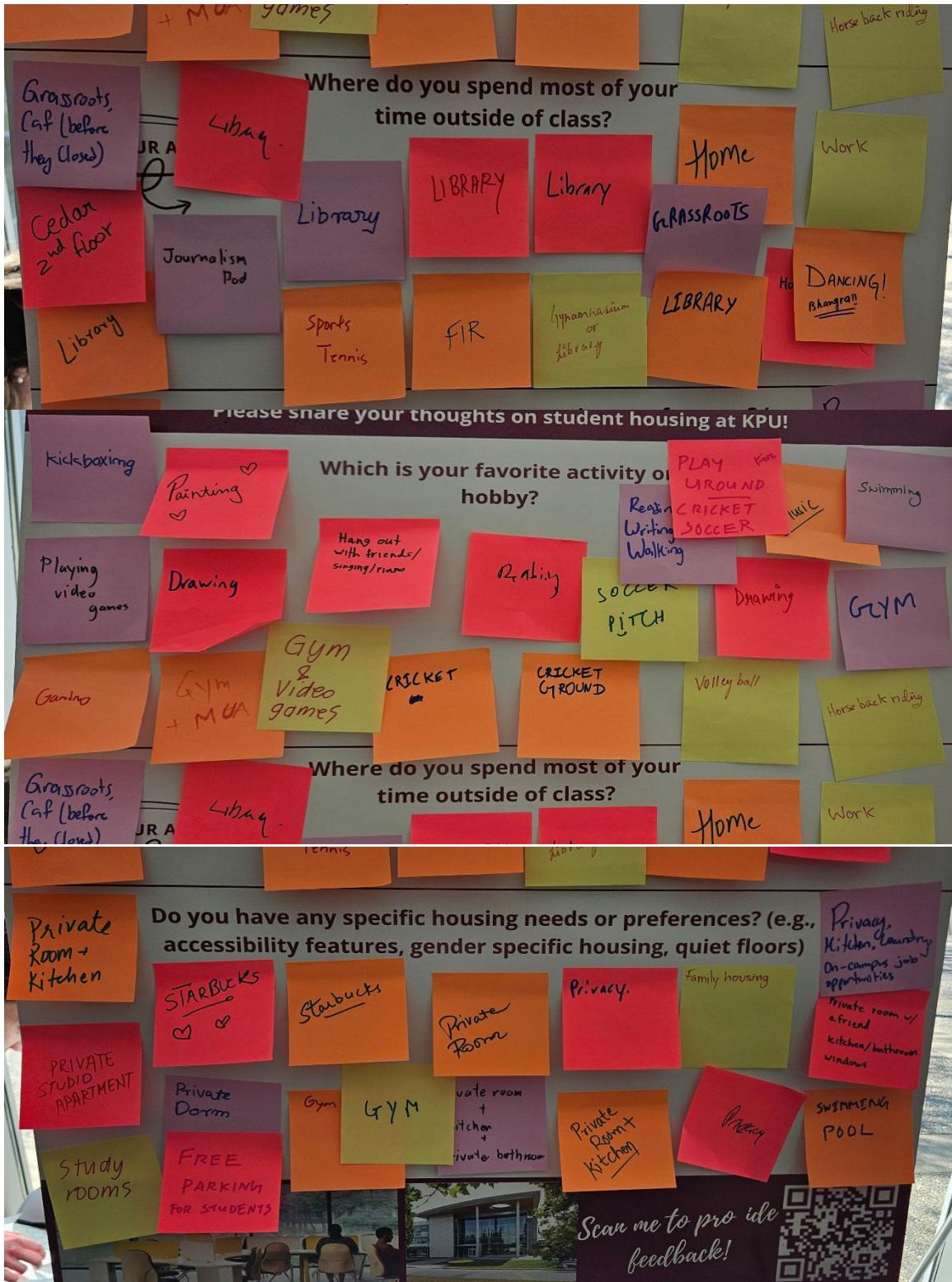
Please share your thoughts on student housing at KPU!

The image shows a wall covered in numerous sticky notes, organized into three main sections:

- Top Section: "Which is your favorite activity or hobby?"**
  - Meeting New people
  - Table games
  - Crochet, Photography & Dancing
  - Badminton & Basketball
  - Soccer or hiking
  - Skating - Ice
  - Playing Badminton
  - Reading, listening, creative writing
  - Going on walks
  - Drawing
  - Basketball
  - Soccer + Swimming
  - Dancing
  - Swimming + Pokemon VGC
  - Hiking
  - Collecting (Cards (TCG))
  - Cycling, travelling, Hiking
- Middle Section: "Where do you spend most of your time outside of class?"**
  - Home
  - Home
  - Home
  - Home
  - home
  - Parks
  - Home Work
  - Home or Newton park
  - Home + Vancov (atatre)
  - Beaches
  - Home and Park
- Bottom Section: "Do you have any specific housing needs or preferences? (e.g., accessibility features, gender specific housing, quiet floors)"**
  - Laundry
  - Laundry + transit accessibility
  - Gym
  - Laundry
  - Big windows
  - Laundry in unit
  - LAUNDRY CURTAINS
  - ports to a park
  - Laundry Gym Shared spaces
  - Laundry + laundry + bus stop + groceries
  - Laundry + Soundproof
  - Light
  - lots of sunlight
  - gym

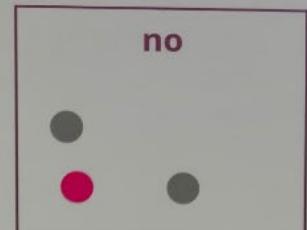
At the bottom of the wall, there is a QR code and the text "Scan me to provide feedback!"





Please use stickers or sticky notes to provide feedback

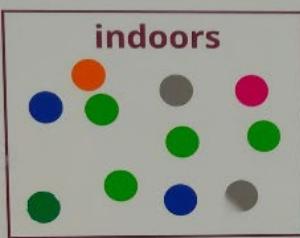
Do you feel like the campus offers a sense of community and belonging?



outdoors

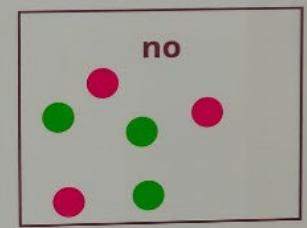


indoors



Do you prefer being indoors, outdoors, or a mix of both?

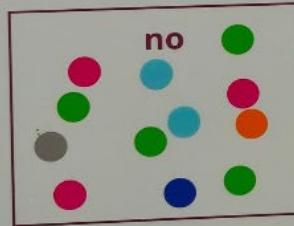
Are you interested in a meal plan?



yes



no

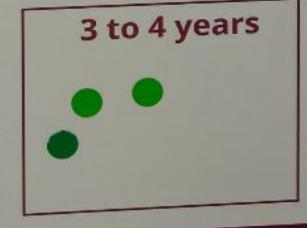


Do you have specific dietary needs or preferences?

How long would you prefer to stay in campus housing?



1 to 2 years



3 to 4 years

Scan and provide your feedback!



Use stickers to choose what you prefer



INDOOR GATHERING SPACE



CHILDCARE



OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACE



COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE



PLAY AREAS



FLEXIBLE SPACES

Photo credit: Future 3 Space

Use stickers to choose what you prefer



3203  
MEDITATION/  
PRAYER ROOM

ALL FAITHS SPACE



COMMUNITY GARDENS



GYM FACILITIES



PUBLIC ART



WALKING TRAILS



QUIET SPACES

