

POD Market Removal Adds to Residential Complaints

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By Sheyda Honvaloo - Originally Published 11/2018

GGC hosts over 12,000 undergraduate students, and since 2016, it has grown by 5.1 percent. With the option to either commute or reside in The Grands, this gives many students a chance to choose the “full college experience,” equipped with the regulations and fees that come with it.

The reality of living on campus can always be a surprise for first-time residents, but it still holds the novelty of being able to have your own place away from home.

“Honestly, The Grands really provide an opportunity for all types of students that want to live here,” Senior English Major Derrick Russell aid. “I guess (they) reach a certain point in their life when they need space, or just a new outlet or a new area to thrive in and find themselves. That’s the good thing about GGC’s Residence Life.”

The Grands also came equipped with a POD Market located in the 1000 Building, providing easy access to both fresh and frozen food, toiletries and basic necessities for students. However, it was closed during the summer of 2018.

“It hasn't affected me personally, but I know it has affected students in The Grands, like at night when they don't want to walk across campus to the A building, they could have just conveniently walked to the first floor to the POD,” Junior RA Nika Williams said. “...Or if they don’t have a car, they could have just gone to the POD. I’ve heard students complain about it.”

The POD Market was equipped to cater to everyone’s needs, specifically residents. The POD Market opened around noon and closed late at night, providing snacks for late-night study sessions, as well as other necessities, right at the residents’ doorsteps. There have been speculations between students on why the POD Market closed.

“I have my own reasonings for why the POD Market was removed, but when I would go up there, there wasn’t much activity, so they probably didn’t make much money,” said Senior RA Colin Flagg. “I could guess from my own convictions that the reason why that happened is because the prices were a bit unaffordable for college students.”

Mrs. Victoria Hanson, Director of Auxiliary Services, expressed her concerns.

“I’m concerned that the RAs didn't know why it closed. We met with Residence Life and the RA’s and explained to them why the POD was closing,” Hanson said.

“When the POD went in, it was making money. Students went in there, and it was doing well. Then it started to taper off,” Hanson said. “Grizzly Dining did all types promotion to try and get students in there. They did coffee, ice cream, to-go items, discount programs, and 2-for-1 to get students in there, and what we found out is that students were going to the A POD, instead of using housing.”

“Any time any product issues were brought to us, we would research and dig into it, and if it was a mistake made, we would correct it,” said Operations Director Bill Heck.

Students can contact Auxiliary Services or their RA’s to give feedback or make requests.