



Colby College Student Government Association

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Memo

To: President's Council and the Office of Campus Life

From: Housing and Facilities Advisory Committee

Date: November 23rd, 2009

Re: HFAC proposal

The Housing and Facilities Advisory Committee has met several times over the course of the current semester to address specific concerns with the current housing selection process and to discuss possible solutions. In these open and public discussions, the following items were identified as primary goals:

1. Seniors should receive preferential treatment in housing selection
2. In the coming semester, HFAC will work with campus life to continue to find ways to fix the current housing system
3. Introduction of block housing into the current housing system
4. Reexamining the quota system
5. Improving efficiency of the physical room draw process
6. Overtime Campus Life should look into ways to make the housing process clear and available to students online

In pursuing these goals, the committee has evaluated many ideas and has conducted research into past proposals and housing systems at peer institutions. At this time, the committee proposes that the current lottery system be maintained with the following amendments:

1. The senior housing quota shall be revised. Seniors shall have first selection of rooms based on their lottery numbers and may select any room in any residence hall with only two restrictions:
 - a. Seniors may not make up more than 50% of the population of a residence hall other than the Alford Apartments, this includes seniors living in suites.
 - b. First-Year rooms will continue to be reserved for first years and may not be selected by any upperclassman.
2. To consider:
 - a. Reforms for dorm designations (the specialty housing rotations).
 - b. Consider special room draw options for suites.
3. Introduction of block housing into the current housing system.
 - a. Block housing will occur during the regular room draw selection.
 - b. Students in regular room draw can choose to block as a group of 4, 5 or 6 people.
 - c. The student with the best lottery number can choose his or her "block room" and then pull in the corresponding amount of roommates for the rest of the "block"
 - d. Groups of doubles and triples (in unrenovated Robert's Row dorms and Hillside) will be chosen by Campus Life and HFAC to be blocked off prior to room draw.

- e. Blocks can be co-ed as long as they adhere to Colby policy regarding co-ed living.
 - f. The regular gender and class quota rules are applied to blocks.
4. Reexamining the quota system
- a. Changing the senior quota so that no residence hall (including suites) shall be more than 50% seniors
 - b. After rooms are designated to first years, the regular quota system shall be applied to the remaining rooms.
 - c. Gender quotas, like in the Alford Apartments, will not be applied in suites. After suites have been picked, gender quotas for the rooms that remain in a residence hall will be adjusted to that residence halls remain evenly divided between male and female students.
5. Improving efficiency of the physical room draw process
- a. The room draw schedule outlined by Campus Life shall be adopted:
 - i. We will chunk groups of numbers for specific times. Ex: 1-200 from 6:00-6:45pm, 201-350 from 6:45pm to 7:30pm
 - b. We will guarantee that no number will be called before the time listed
 - c. We will give students 60 seconds to choose a room before we allow the next number to start looking at floor plans and choosing their room.
6. Working to develop an online information source for housing at Colby
- a. Overtime Campus Life should look into ways to make the housing process clear and available to students online. Furthermore, Campus Life should look for ways to make the housing electronic over the course of the next few years.

The College should continue its practices of a fair and unbiased lottery.

After the room draw process is complete, HFAC and Campus Life will administer a campus-wide survey of students asking them how they felt about the housing process. The answers received from this survey will provide as data when evaluating these changes in subsequent years.

We look forward to working with the Office of Campus Life, the Dean of Students, and any other interested party to implement these changes and work out logistical details. It is our hope that these changes can take affect for the upcoming housing selection process this Spring.