



RICE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

PASSED

Senate Bill #6
of the 2016-2017 Session

To Charter the Rice Housing Working Group

Introduced by
SANKET MEHTA, Will Rice Senator, 2016-2017
ANKUSH AGRAWAL, Will Rice President, 2016-2017
JAKE NYQUIST, Will Rice Senator, 2015-2016
Monday, February 13, 2017

Passed on
Monday, February 20, 2017
GRIFFIN THOMAS, Student Association President, 2016-2017
Presiding Officer

Whereas, 78 percent of Rice Students live in on-campus housing provided by the Rice Housing and Dining Department (H&D);

Whereas, Rice students residing on campus generally live in facilities associated with their residential colleges;

Whereas, Residential college facilities were built in different eras and have different maintenance requirements;

Whereas, Residential colleges are inextricably linked to and direct much of the undergraduate experience;

Whereas, One of the purposes of the Student Association is to facilitate cooperation between students and administrative entities across campus;

Whereas, The Student Association recognizes the important role H&D plays to the functioning of campus-life, and appreciates the hard work and dedication of H&D staff to the student body and University as a whole;

Whereas, Recently some students have become frustrated with a perceived lack of responsiveness to work orders submitted to H&D; and

Whereas, Several maintenance issues have arisen across a number of colleges that have further spurred student concern; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Rice Housing Working Group shall be created with the charter of increasing transparency about large scale college improvement cycles, facilities conditions differences at various colleges, work order response times, and the number of maintenance incidents across campus;

Resolved, That the Rice Housing Working Group shall be chaired by a student appointed by the Student Association President and approved by majority vote of the Senate;

Resolved, That the Rice Housing Working Group membership shall consist of the Chair, one member of the Senate, and one representative from each college;

Resolved, That the member of Senate shall be chosen by the Student Association President and the college representative shall be chosen by their respective college president;

Resolved, That these members will be submitted for approval by the Student Senate;

Resolved, That the Rice Housing Working Group shall gather input through a variety of in-person and online forums with students, College Masters, Resident Associates, and Student Maintenance Representatives, aiming to enumerate specific areas in which Rice delivers and falls short of delivering an ideal undergraduate housing experience;

Resolved, That the Rice Housing Working Group shall consult with the Rice Housing and Dining department to gather information on a variety of topics, such as:

- 1) How does H&D choose which colleges and buildings should be renovated next?
- 2) What percentage of work orders are resolved within a week of their submission?
- 3) How frequently are students forced to evacuate rooms due to facilities issues?
- 4) What are the Housing and Dining department's core costs and revenues associated with providing housing for Rice undergraduate students?
- 5) What key factors impact pricing for rooms on campus?;

Resolved, That the Rice Housing Working Group will consider success of this initiative using the following criteria:

- 1) Improving transparency for the work order management process
- 2) Presenting Senate and the Student Body with a more accurate understanding of the H&D maintenance budget
- 3) Providing Housing and Dining and the SA Senate with information regarding the student perception of which colleges have inferior facilities and suggestions about how to improve communication with the management of Rice's housing facilities;

Resolved, That subject to Senate approval, the Rice Housing Working Group shall recommend ways by which the Housing and Dining work order process, facilities maintenance, and quality of service can be more transparent to the student body;

Resolved, That the Working Group shall dissolve at the conclusion of the Fall 2017 semester;
and

Resolved, That a full report of the Working Group's process, findings and recommendations shall be presented to the Senate with the intention of informing Senate on how to better advocate for student living conditions in form of a resolution no later than the conclusion of the Fall 2017 semester, and that the Working Group shall regularly update the Senate as to their progress.

PASSED



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