Good morning!

The summer housing form opens on this Friday, April 15 on the Residence Life website. You will select your own house and room for the weeks you need. All contracts must be confirmed by May 1. The form will be closed from May 1 – May 18 to confirm and review contracts. Students can start signing up again on Wednesday, May 18. *Summer housing is for students paying to stay. This is not for students working for Commencement and/or Reunion and approved by a supervisor to stay for that work.*

Summer housing is coordinated by a collaboration between Residence Life, Dining Services, and Facilities Management. It initially began as a process to provide housing for 20 students conducting science research. We now have an average of 150 students on any given week and 20-30 students moving in and moving out every Sunday. We have done an overview on necessary costs to simply run the program and discussed consistent issues that have arose the past few years. We want to outline some enhancements as well as changes.

1. **We are providing all single occupancy rooms.** This means that rooms typically used as doubles throughout the academic year will only have one occupant in the summer. *This means no students will have a roommate.*

2. You will **pick your house and room assignment** yourself for the weeks you sign up.

3. **Student Financial Services is providing a payment plan for students.** A payment plan will be available to assist with financing the summer housing charges. Students and/or authorized users can enroll in this plan through TouchNet starting May 16th. *When enrolling, please carefully review the plan description and due dates.* Information about payment plans, including how to enroll, can be found on the Student Financial Services website: [http://www.smith.edu/sfs/financing_plan.php](http://www.smith.edu/sfs/financing_plan.php) Students who choose to use payroll deduction to pay their summer housing balance must also enroll in the payment plan. This process allows students to sign up for housing that you know you need but do not have to pay the full amount up front. *Keep in mind that you still CANNOT DELETE WEEKS once your contract is confirmed.*

4. **All students will be on the meal plan.** There is no longer a non-meal plan option. There are many reasons for this but mainly it is daily occurrences of students sneaking into dining rooms and conflict with staff about being on the meal plan when they are in fact, not. There are also increasing issues with kitchen facilities in houses not being large enough to accommodate dining, cleanliness problems, theft, and dietary cross contamination. We either needed to raise costs to cover dining security and cleaning staff and agreed it was more beneficial to have all students be on the meal plan instead of raising costs for additional staffing.

5. **The weekly summer housing fee will be raised from $148 to $154.** This fee encompasses $45 for housekeeping and $109 for dining. You will get dinners in the dining room Monday-Friday and $45 on your card for breakfast and lunch in the Campus Center Café. The actual cost is $175 but Facilities and Dining Services understand we need a gradual increase so we will continue to assess needs and post them well in advance. You will expect to know summer housing 2017 fees by November 2016.
6. **You get to stay in your academic year room during Commencement.** This year we will let summer housing students stay in your academic year room until Commencement. Even though the summer housing form will ask you to pick a house and room, if you are signing up for May 8 – May 14, you will remain in your academic year room. If you sign up in Park House, you will move on Monday, May 16. If you sign up in Comstock or Wilder, you will actually move on Sunday, May 29 for plumbing work. All residents of Comstock and Wilder will need to move out starting Monday, May 16 so we recommend you find housing in Park House if possible. Otherwise, you will stay in your academic year room and we’ll do our best to consolidate students so you are not the only student in your house. More information to come on this!

7. **There will be more anticipated changes in the next few years.** We need to continuously address the needs of the college for summer occupancy in addition to the most streamlined set-up. We do anticipate that rates will increase to meet the actual costs associated with the program and weekly sign-ups may be changed to a time block format.

Thank you!