

# Housing & Dining Modifications

September 28, 2020

## Housing Rent Increase Request (Spring 2021) – RATE CHANGE

**Justification:** Due to Covid19 restrictions and the need to maintain a healthy residence hall population, it is recommended that all on campus housing be limited to single room occupancy only for the spring semester.

When the university transitioned to all online education the end of August, it was determined that those students living on campus would be repositioned into single rooms in a limited number of halls for safety reasons. It was deemed unreasonable to charge students additional costs for fall housing options at that time, as this move was made not at their request. However, in making the transition to their new housing, all students signed an addendum acknowledging that their spring housing rate would be adjusted to accurately reflect a single room rate in their building specific location.

Even though there is already an established single room rate which is normally \$800 over the cost of a double. For spring 2021, the university will instead offer a discounted rate of \$300 over the price of a double room. As the university is only offering a single room option, the fairest pricing concept is for that double to assist the university with covering fixed expenses while not overburdening the student. This new single room premium represents a \$500 discount from the normal rate. *EXAMPLE: In normal operations, double occupancy in Hall A is \$3000. Single in Hall A is \$3800. For spring 2021, single in Hall A would be \$3300.*

The additional revenue will assist the university in covering the costs typically shared by all students that will not be reduced because of single occupancy rooms. These expenses include IT and telecommunication expenses; the cleaning of the building public spaces and bathrooms; staffing expenses; overhead to other university departments; building security expenses; debt service and other similar shared costs across the entire residential population.

Lastly, this increase is reasonably priced to encourage students to return to campus for the spring which is essential to the financial health of Campus Living and the university. Additionally, research continues to show that freshmen perform much better academically living in residence hall. Placing a cost greater than this on students is likely to inhibit them from choosing to return to campus. This one-time reduction in the single room rate is a prudent investment in increasing occupancy for the spring semester.

## Rate Recommendations:

	Current Semester Rate (Fall 20)	Proposed Semester Rate (Spr 21)	Proposed Increase for Spr 21 Singles
Scott Hall/Gateway Suites	\$3,080.00	\$3,380.00	\$300.00
Scott/Gateway Suites - Private Bath	\$3,280.00	\$3,580.00	\$300.00
Renovated Residence Halls*	\$2,990.00	\$3,290.00	\$300.00
Cotten/Gateway Larger Specialty Rooms	\$3,027.00	\$3,327.00	\$300.00
Standard Residence Halls**	\$2,760.00	\$3,060.00	\$300.00

\*Renovated residence halls include Fletcher, Tyler, Gateway (Traditional Rooms), White, Clement, Cotten & Greene

\*\*Standard residence halls include Legacy, Jones, Fleming, Jarvis & Umstead

### **Dining Meal Plan Change (Spring 2021) – NEW DINING OPTION/NO RATE CHANGE**

**Justification:** During spring 2021, Todd Dining Hall will be the only dining hall open. Transit buses will run routes in 15 minutes intervals from core campus to College Hill. This will cost less than opening West End Dining Hall. Additional retail stores within the Main Campus Student Center will open in spring.

To assist in accommodating student dining needs, a fourth meal plan option will be implemented, specifically for those students living in the Central and West End neighborhoods. This additional option will be at no cost to the students but will allow them to have more choices to get food convenient to where they live. The fourth meal option will provide 160 meals, 40 dining hall meals, and \$600 in flexible purple bucks which can be used at retail outlets. The cost for this plan is \$1,975 plus tax which is identical to the other four plans previously approved for 2020-21.

### **Intersession Housing & Dining Plan (Fall 2020) – BRAND NEW RATE**

With the university hosting intersession classes for the first time from November 30, 2020 through January 8, 2021, Campus Living will offer an optional housing and dining package for students who desire to stay during this shortened session. The intersession housing rate would be \$450 for the six weeks. It is expected that the number of students interested in this option will not justify or support the opening of a dining hall; hence, only The POD Market in the Galley (Jones Hall) will be open for students to access on the food front. Students will be required to purchase a \$100 Gold Bucks meal plan so that they might purchase food items from The POD Market to provide for their nutritional needs during this time.