

UEC/Housing Meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – Zoom Call

In Attendance: Teri Lazar, Kelly Guiffreda, Christina Markert, Hanna Zbroszczyk, Marzia Rosati, Megan Connors, Krista Smith, Richard Witt, Anders Knospe, Ross Corliss, Yu Hu, Cathy Ennis, Raghav

Housing Area Tour Review presented by Yu Hu and Ross Corliss

UEC would like to make a list of concerns, for BNL management of items that need to be addressed in the housing units.

Ross Corlis and Yu Hu were very appreciative of the tour and had very nice things to say about the housing units shown.

Some items they spoke about:

Check the rooms prior to check-in. (checklist)

Extra desks, small that could collapsible and wheeled into the room for weekend work.

Noisy refrigerators

Small bent blinds in bathroom

Men's laundry room, shower door or curtains for more privacy

Rental pricing on the housing confirmation

Mold on ceilings

Gender Neutral concerns

More forks needed in kitchen

Yu Hu Presentation of housing tour. (see attached PDF)

Ross's checklist of issues and observations from yesterday's walkthrough:

dorm:

- beds small, mattress uncomfortable
 - they are replacing the mattresses. The new ones are not plastic wrapped (hence quiet) and 'more comfortable', though this is a matter of taste.
 - they are purchasing ~ dozen longer mattresses, which can be requested. Not sure how this will be advertised
- doors do not lock
 - need to follow up about this. was this about the dorms or the apartments?
- noisy fridge
 - contact housing (Cathy). They will swap out noisy fridges.
- noise during the day (night shift)
 - there /is/ a quiet floor. Maybe raise with them about how to better police/encourage it?

bathroom:

- water quality (color)
 - this is iron, not lead. run it for a while and cook with cold water. Probably outside the scope of current reno to fix this?
- outdated, lack of privacy
 - not much room to modify mens bathrooms, but we discussed a swinging door to separate bathroom from shower space
- womens in Curie do have privacy areas to change outside of the shower
- mold (cleaning)

- no sign of mold in bathrooms, kitchens, etc on our walk-through. (in the meeting, Raghav points out that this is not a substitute for thorough, professional checks, and suggested having housing folks walkthrough the rooms that are about to be occupied by incoming visitors)

- opened a few fridges and saw no mold
- no gender-neutral
 - there is one in cavendish now (it's the ADA bathroom).

kitchen:

- no utensils
 - they periodically check and replenish. Two kitchens out of five visited were missing forks.
- no oven
 - no plans to install these, but air fryers in compton (students requested these). Power

issues.

- no cleaning supplies
 - soap and sponges seen in every kitchen
- lack of maintenance
 - some equipment was visibly damaged (motion sensor, air conditioner)
- movement sensor makes it hard to cook
 - this is non-negotiable, because there were several fires due to unattended cooking
- limited place to sit and eat
 - there are as many seats in the dining area as reasonably fit there.
 - we should talk about putting some dining space outside of that area as well
- no power for stove:
 - this is a known problem, but can't be fixed with the existing power in the building (?). The stoves are /powered/, but they are weak. no plans to change this. (though there are lots of other appliances cluttering there)
- vending machines often empty
 - they talked about removing these. we pressed to keep them; they'll look into why the vendor wants to remove them (wasn't making money, but maybe just covid issue)
 - closest is in bldg 400.

laundry:

- small laundry room
 - Cathy talked about moving this outside of the male bathroom for accessibility

apartment:

- price not shown in advance
 - she does the prices by hand, but can make sure to post the price table. (there's gotta be an automated way to do this...)
- mattresses
 - didn't try these. are these being reno'd?
- ac only in common area
 - saw some acs not in living room, but this is a power issue. not sure how to resolve.
- mold
 - none seen.
- wifi bad
 - planning to go to verizon 5g wifi connections there. Date not certain, but ~ few months,

maybe?

- small sink and no vanity
 - not sure what can be done here. reno is going on.
- unable to darken rooms facing parking lot
 - they are looking into better blinds.