Next House Room-Assignment Action Plan

1. Please describe, in detail, your house’s updated room-assignment process for first year students. This should include details of the process over the summer and the process during REX and Orientation.

Over the summer, the Room Assignment Chair (RAC) randomly assigns students to rooms throughout Next House. The only variables considered are the student’s preferred bed time and desired noise level. This determines where on a wing they are placed (e.g. near a lounge).

The morning of the housing lottery after all First Year Residence Exchange (FYRE) results are released all first-years will receive a lottery number for the housing selection process.

All students are encouraged to participate in NEXTploration and it is recommended that they meet students from all of the wings over a two-hour period. This happens shortly before the lottery selection, but students have their lottery numbers at this point.

For more details on the official policies please visit Next House’s website.

2. How does the process allow for students who are overwhelmed to opt out of exploration and moving?

If a student wants to opt-out of the housing lottery because they are unduly stressed or overwhelmed, they can speak with the Assistant Director/Area Director regarding staying in their summer-assigned room. Students who are unduly stressed will be directed to speak with the Assistant Director/Area Director who will explain the process and opt-out option to them. This will be communicated to students from Housing and Residential Services in their communications as well as in the welcome email from Next House student leadership. The RAC will also hold information sessions to explain the lottery to students and this option will be made available to students there. The Assistant Director/Area Director will be present at the information sessions.

3. What is the level of upper-level student involvement? Are the first-year students being assigned through an algorithm or another way?

Upper-level students are involved through NEXTploration and showing off the culture of their wings. They welcome students to their wings before the lottery but are not involved in determining where students end up. Room assignments are purely based on first-year student preference in the lottery. At no point during either lottery does anyone other than the resident have a say in where they are assigned. The only time an upper-level student is involved in assigning anyone is during summer assignments, which is based purely on noise/bed time as addressed in the first section and done by the RAC.

4. Please describe your house’s upper-level student room-assignment process. This description should include any information about mid-semester room switches.

In the spring, there is an upper-level student student lottery. All students are able to remain in their current room. All residents who want to move rooms enter either a wing lottery or the building-wide lottery. All residents in a current
wing are guaranteed to be given a space in their current wing if they enter the wing lottery. If a resident wants to enter a different wing’s lottery they will be able to do so assuming there is space. Wings will be assigned new members randomly based on space. Students are then able to select rooms within their wing based on their lottery numbers which are assigned by seniority within the wing (years are knocked down one year when transferring).

Students who choose to enter the building-wide lottery will then be able to pick from the remaining rooms, but they won’t be limited by wing.

When a space becomes available during the year it follows the lottery bylaws listed above with the additional “Solar” consideration. A solar is a large room available on some wings that many residents want, which is why there is a separate process for them.

If a student wants to move rooms during the semester, they tell the RAC and they will be notified of any available spaces in the building.

Further details can again be found on the Next House website.

5. What is the role of the AD in these processes?

As in years past, the Assistant Director/Area Director will be present at the lottery and NEXTploration. The Assistant Director/Area Director will also speak with students who are unduly stressed or overwhelmed. In these conversations, the Assistant Director/Area Director will explain the purpose of the housing lottery and make sure each student fully understands it. If the student is still stressed and does not want to participate in the lottery then the Assistant Director/Area Director will communicate this to the Heads of House and RAC and the student will be opted out of the lottery and remain in their summer room assignment.

6. What forms of evaluation are being considered for assessing the effectiveness of the new process? What ideas do you have for evaluation?

Next Exec is planning to continue surveying students next year and will have additional votes to refine their procedures. One vote already planned will address the confusion over the spring’s vote. There will be several options presented to Next residents that all meet the “opt-out” criterion.