

## **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 sleeping hours 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, an in-house wing exploration event, and it is recommended that they meet students from all of the wings during this event. 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?** *This is the only part changed from 2021-22 AY*

First years have the option of opting out of the process. To do so, they should contact the AD, who is available to speak to and support the student in the process if needed. All students will be made aware of this option: This will be communicated to students from Housing and Residential Services (HRS) 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 opt-out option will be made available to students there. The AD will be present at the information sessions. To keep as much student information confidential as possible, the RAC will not be involved in the opting-out discussion. They will refer students to and defer to the decision of the AD, only knowing who is opting out, not why.

- 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/sleep preference 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 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 class year. 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 Area Director will be present at the lottery and NEXTploration. The AD will also speak with students who are unduly stressed or overwhelmed. In these conversations, the AD 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 AD 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 plans to continue surveying students next year and will have additional votes to refine procedures to reduce confusion and maximize room assignment satisfaction. There will be several options presented to Next residents that all meet the "opt-out" criterion.