

Q&A:

Housing Crisis and Breadloaf

Please feel free to reach out if you wish for clarifications, want to share concerns, and/or just want to chat! You can reach me at aubriannaw@middlebury.edu!

Transparency

Question: *Why wasn't the over enrollment issue anticipated and addressed to prevent a shortage of housing?*

Answer: This was a slowly evolving situation.

Factors:

1. Returning students: Midd decided to not limit the amount of returning students in order to give an in person experience to those who wish. This means that all of the students who decided to take a leave last year are welcome and able to return, increasing our student body.
2. Study Abroad: Many study abroad schools have been cancelled and thus, many students who normally would not be on campus are going to be. Schools abroad are continually being canceled, which is impacting the size of our on campus student body.
3. Incoming freshman: The yield rate for Middlebury was much higher this year than normally, which means that the more freshmen that were extended offers accepted, making the Class of 2025 larger than normal.

Question: *Are incoming freshmen currently being admitted from the waitlist?*

Answer: No, no students are currently being taken off the waitlist.

Question: *Why were temporary housing units not built on campus?*

Answer: In the past, there were temporary housing units at the Ridgeline parking lot, but that or other similar temporary units would not be possible for the 2021-22 school year. The administration could not find any such units to buy this summer. This is not the "quick fix" it appears to be and was not an option. RV's could not be used as dormitories must meet fire safety codes.

Question: *How will I get to campus during the week, on the weekends, and during late nights?*

Answer: Administration plans on having a early to late frequent, reliable shuttle service that runs from campus, to the Marriott, then Breadloaf. A schedule is being designed that the administration feels confident will meet most students' needs. Adjustments will be made if these needs are not being sufficiently met.

Impact on Marginalized Students

Question: *Living at Bread Loaf for lower income students who may not have access to a car will be significantly more challenging. Are lower income students being targeted by the current incentives to reduce prices?*

Answer: Currently, there are 22 volunteer students to live at Bread Loaf and there does not appear to be a significant percentage of lower income folk. Bread Loaf is equipped with the baseline aspects of our Midd experience: dining, housing, ResLife, Public Safety, and transportation. That being said, once administrators are aware of who will be living at Breadloaf, the needs of the students most impacted will be centered to optimize this experience for each individual.

Question: *Scenario: A student breaks both of their legs mid-semester and lives on the 5th floor of Starr and can no longer access their current dorm. Will any accessible housing spaces be reserved for students who need accommodations during the fall semester?*

Answer: A few accessible spaces will be held during the fall semester, as ADA accommodations are required by law. Other spaces also may free up mid-semester if students decide to take leaves.

Safety

Question: *How does the college plan to keep students who plan to drive to Breadloaf safe, especially preventing distracted driving due to driving under the influence or sleep deprivation?*

Answer: Shuttles late into the night will be provided to students to hopefully limit the amount of students driving themselves in dangerous circumstances. Aubiranna Wilson and the Junior Committee will work to provide education surrounding distracted driving is crucial to mitigate this problem to the entire 2023(.5) class and campus community.

Question: *What if there is a major weather event and road access to campus and Bread Loaf is unavailable?*

Answer: The administration has plans to prepare for both major weather emergency events where Breadloaf students are either stuck on campus or at Bread Loaf. Bread Loaf has the capability to be self-sufficient in case of such an emergency.

Question: *Students have begun to make memes about how male identifying students on campus will use their on campus housing to entice female identifying students to engage in sexual activity with them as they do not have a place to spend the night. What is being done about these disturbing ideas?*

Answer: The administration agrees that this is an unacceptable and perverse idea. Aubrianna Wilson and the Junior Committee plan to work with The Office of Health and Wellness Education and SPECS will continue to provide sexual education.

MiddSafe is a free and confidential resource that is available 24/7 while classes are in session for students impacted by sexual assault, dating violence and/or stalking. Advocates answering the hotline are trained Middlebury students who are here to listen, offer resources, and discuss other ways to help. Please do not hesitate to call us at 1-802-377-0239, visit our [Online Advocate](#) resource, or learn more on our [website](#).

Question: *Many students are in housing situations that are not suitable for their mental health - what are the options for students who end up living in unbearable circumstances that would normally be accommodated for room changes mid-semester?*

Answer: Mid-semester room changes will be possible for extreme circumstances. It is important to note that the more spaces reserved, the more students will not be able to have an in person Middlebury experience. There will not be widespread room changes for this reason.

Support for Students Living At Bread Loaf and Marriott

Question: *What is the guarantee for Bread Loaf students to get on campus housing in the spring?*

Answer: Students living at BL or the Marriott will have priority move in as spaces become available due to 2021(.5) graduation and students studying abroad. This is not guaranteed, but is likely and expected. Impacted students will have a special room draw for the 2022-2023 academic year to have priority for housing. This draw will include highly desirable rooms, suites, and townhouses, and will be open only to Bread Loaf and Marriott residents and friends they wish to bring into their housing groups.

Question: *What incentives are being provided to students who will live at Bread Loaf and Marriott?*

Answer: The following incentives will be provided

- Room and Board will have a 50% discount
- All Bread Loaf residents with registered vehicles will receive a faculty/staff parking pass, allowing them to park anywhere on campus with the exception of ADA-only spaces.
- A location on the main campus is being identified to serve as a Bread Loaf student lounge
- Free laundry service
- Free ski equipment rentals will be included with the free passes to Rikert and the Snow Bowl.
- Additional planning is underway for activities and events to be held at Bread Loaf. We can and will bring campus happenings to Bread Loaf.