

NOTE: These responses represent a fraction of the students who came forward with their stories. There are countless others who came before us and never got the justice they deserved. The harm ResLife has done is more varied and more expansive than we ever could have imagined. This document will be updated as we get clearance from more students to post their experiences.

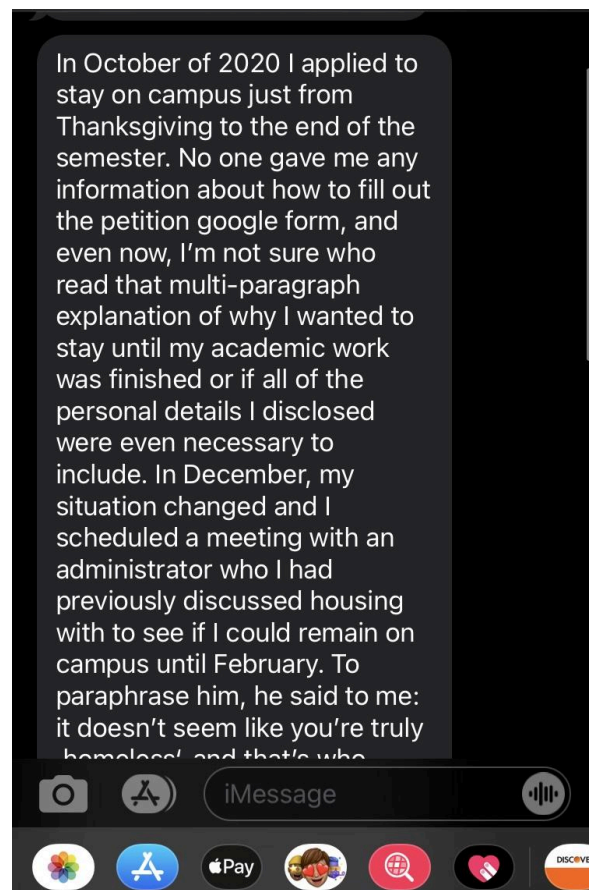
IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT, PLEASE REACH OUT!

- Jess:
 - Twitter: @JessicaYBurks
 - Instagram: @j.y.burks
- Heather:
 - Twitter: @heatherncassell
 - Instagram: @heather.cassell
- Mo:
 - Twitter: @moniquealexa_
 - Instagram: @monique.alexa

Collection of 167 testimonies from 2019 in regards to ResLife unprecedentedly revoking a policy that allowed students in program housing to stay in their current housing assignments if they were Senior Week / Commencement Student Staff.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18NaHvlyD2MxrnhUEHjkywqS5rYZvNKaS/view?usp=sharing>

Anonymous
Feb. 8, 2021



it doesn't seem like you're truly 'homeless', and that's who winter housing is for." This was after I explained to him that I needed to stay on campus lest I return to living with an abusive family member with an active addiction. He told me that I could write and submit an additional petition to stay through February, but that it was likely to be rejected and generally discouraged me from going through this process.

As I imagined, I had an extremely difficult winter and I believe am beginning this semester unduly exhausted and stressed because of my housing situation. Had I stayed on campus during the winter or been able to sign a lease in Middletown for the whole year, I

been able to sign a lease in Middletown for the whole year, I would have likely been able to take a job here in town that I was looking at—I'm sure I'm not the only person to point out that forcing students to leave Middletown for an odd amount of time like over the last break makes it hard to find employment during that period.

Oh and. Ofc I assume this is anonymous?

Today 3:48 PM

Thank you so much for sharing. I've had similar issues with privacy concerns in the petition process. I'm sorry you had to deal with this. It is definitely anonymous.

Anonymous
Feb. 7, 2021

Hi Jess! Thank you so much for your work in collecting reslife experiences. Mine was pretty minor compared to other people and worked out fine in the end, but I think it should be shared because it wasn't okay.

Basically my program house was doing room selection and I knew I needed a single because I hadn't had gender affirmation surgery yet. I'd had a single freshman year for this reason too




I emailed Dean Patey (because I didn't know who else to talk to) and asked for official accommodations due to being trans (I had medical documentation etc). She said that they don't consider being trans an accessibility issue and that I should coordinate with the

 Message...   

trans an accessibility issue and that I should coordinate with the AC which tbh was very fair of her and I think she does good work. Anyway!

We get to room selection and there was one single left -- the rest had already been assigned to people with official accommodations. I was really worried and people were pairing off as roommates, etc. It wasn't clear where I was gonna end up. I talked to a friend about possibly being roommates in a two-room double if worst came to worse since she was the only person in the house who I was comfortable rooming with.

We got our lottery numbers a few days later and I had the last selection number. The HM took me to meet with Bill and he was

Message...   

me to meet with Bill and he was incredibly dismissive. He told me he could sympathize because he was "part of the community" 🙄

Bill told me that if I wanted a single, I needed to make an appeal to the house and disclose to everyone that I needed a single because I was trans. He was like oh they'll be really understanding and then they'll organize it so you can have a single so easy peasy!!! while ignoring the fact that I didn't want to tell everyone that I'm trans.

Luckily everyone else in the house paired off and I was the last one without a roommate, so I got the single. But Bill was so condescending on room assignment night and was like "see it worked out just like I said"

Message...



"see it worked out just like I said"

Through all of these stories, Fran and Bill seem to be the names coming up over and over as bullies. I really hope that you're able to have off-campus housing and find stability!

(Also, could this be shared anonymously? Thanks :))

Monday 11:52 AM

That is SUCH a breach of privacy and I'm so sorry you had to go through that.



There clearly needs to be some changes when so many people are being hurt at the hands of the same people



Message...



Anonymous
Feb. 3, 2021

hi!! this is not my own experience but someone who i was hoping to live with this year applied for disability accommodations because of treatment for a chronic illness that would severely impact their ability to function as an in person student and was denied. they would not have come back to campus if not for the fact that they happened to find another person with similar accommodations/needs to pull them into their housing unit. they were basically told to live inaccessibly or stay home. not sure if this is exactly what you were looking for but i thought i would share.



Anonymous
Feb. 4, 2021

Hi Jess!! Right! Okay so idk if this is like helpful to u or not, but I figured I'd let u decide. I actually WAS approved for off campus housing, and I am living on court street now. With that said, I do not really feel like it is very fair that I got approved and others did not - don't get me wrong, I'm very glad I got approved, and it wasn't the easiest, but I wish they would approve others. I have stable housing at home, and while I do need to be on campus to graduate on time due to major requirements being in person only, I find that to be significantly less of an issue than low income students who don't have stable housing

For context, what I had to do to get approved was get an official letter from my doctor stating that due to my severe anxiety (which was already existing) and obsessive compulsive disorder (also already existing) I would probably be crippled on a day to day basis living in a dorm or shared living space

Anyway, I don't want to like come across as like angry that I got approved bc I'm very very grateful. I just think they could've approved more ppl.

Anonymous
Feb. 6, 2021

Hi Jess, I saw your post and want to share my experience. Thank you so much for speaking out.

It's not entirely like your problem, but reslife was being shit as always

...

I was diagnosed with anxiety and depression. The situation got really bad by the end of the last semester due to stress and everything.

I have worked closely with caps and taking a lot of medication but they don't seem to help. The only thing that I can think of in my mind at that time was to get an emotional support animal. But at that time, this was not an option because it was way passed the application deadline for the spring semester.

So I have to move off campus in order to have an ESA. that's the only thing I can think of at the time that would save my life, since I do have serious self harm behavior and suicide tendency

Well i want to share with you what I get from reslife

...

Email sent to from ResLife:

Dear Reslife,

Hi! I am a sophomore currently thinking about moving **off-campus** for the upcoming spring semester. I am currently living in the international house (program house), and there will be 11 people in our house for the spring semester. Due to my currently serious anxiety and depression, which forces me to seek help from Middlesex hospital in the upcoming winter break. I have become more and more afraid of the idea of catching covid from my housemates. My mental health also makes me unable to sleep at night whenever people become too loud, and I need far more space for myself to relax.

With all these being said, I wish to move **off-campus** for the sake of my mental health and wellbeing. I hope that you will be able to approve this as soon as possible so that I can start to find apartments. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Response from ResLife

We currently do not have any plans to release additional students from the live-on requirement for the Spring 2021 semester. So unfortunately, I am not able to approve this request at this time.

Best,
Kieran

I'm like: ok this is one extremely cold sentence after reading all the stuff that I wrote while in extreme anxiety and depression

So I sent them this: ...

to reslife ▼

Dear Reslife,

I just want to specify my condition one more time. I am severely depressed and anxious right now. I am trying my very best to prevent myself from suicide and hospitalization. I am going to Middlesex for intensive therapy 9 hours a week. A huge part of my stress results from the current housing and I am trying my very best to prevent myself from dying. Please don't just say "no we are not allowing students to do that". Please think about my life. Thank you.

Best,

Well they never got back to me

I guess nobody likes my suicide warning so they just ignore me

Sometimes I wonder what will happen to them if I actually do something to myself last semester

Also

[important suggestion after all those trash talk] ...

My problem is partially solved now due to the help of Accomodations Dean Laura Patey. I think she's the one who care on this campus and

Patey. I think she's the one who care on this campus and the one who has the power to actually do something

She helps to make an exception for me, so I get to submit my ESA application after the deadline and eventually have a cat on campus. It's not ideal but she puts everything she can to talk with Reslife to make it happen. I even moved to a bigger room with her help.

If you haven't contacted her. I strongly suggested you doing that. She's not that quick with email but she's the one willing to help. ...

I hope all the best with you.





Anonymous
Feb. 6, 2021

I just graduated in 2020. My senior year housing process was a nightmare. I got a lottery number that was going to place me in Fauver - I had not been there since my freshmen year. I truly hadn't processed but began to come to terms with an incident of sexual assault i experienced in one of the apartments - the idea of living there began to be incredibly distressing. I reached out to reslife explaining my situation wondering if there was an alternative to living in Fauver. I was met (several days later) with an email from Frances basically dismissing me and my experience. Something along the lines of "if this had been brought up sooner we could have assisted you".

and "best of luck"

This was something I thought i could handle with administration on my own but clearly was not, it created even more trauma around the situation.

After several weeks of back and forth i was able to figure something out with them which I know is not the case for most students who have an issue with Reslife. However, the back and forth continued almost until the day I graduated with Frances sending emails to my house (sometimes one of us sometimes all of us, very shady especially considering the subject matter).

| | |
|---|---|
| | <div>Also - I have dealt with mental health issues since before I arrived at Wesleyan and every year spoke with disability services regarding that and housing. She had the audacity to tell me my senior year that it had been noted "i had already applied every year for housing accommodations through disability services". Basically making me feel like there was a cap to how many requests i could make regarding my comfort and mental health</div> <div>...</div> <div>change has been needed for a while in Reslife and i applaud you and your peers for spreading the word and making a statement - it will really benefit many students and class years to come</div> |
| <p>@anakinthehead on Instagram Feb. 3, 2021</p> | <div> <div>  <div>reslife hurt me this semester. i had a really unstable housing situation and needed to move in early but they refused no matter what for conditions that didn't apply to me</div> </div> <div> <div>That's inexcusable. I'm so sorry that happened to you.</div> <div>We're trying to find a way for housing insecure students to be able to live off campus year round so they have some stability. It's not sustainable moving literally every 3 months</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>  <div>i really hope you start a precedent of care for students</div> </div> <div> <div>It's so much bigger than we ever imagined</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>  <div>yeah i just posted your post on my story and i'll make a post after you find more details if you wouldn't mind keeping me updated</div> </div> <div> <div>i'm really mad at reslife and the institution</div> <div>...</div> <div>Literally so many people have reached out with equally horrible stories</div> </div> <div> <div>  <div>been for a while</div> </div> </div> </div> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <div> <div>They deserve it</div> <div> <div>it's SO fucked</div> <div>They aren't treating people right</div> <div>not at all ...</div> <div>people who suffer shouldn't have to more</div> <div>And they still act so rich about it all</div> <div>it's annoying how much of a circle jerk the whole administration is</div> </div> </div> |
|--|---|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <p>Anonymous Feb. 3, 2021</p> | <div> <div>Yeah, Wesleyan closed down Haven Hall, which was a program hall for FGLI students/housing insecure students because of "lack of interest"</div> <div>It was also a hall that guaranteed students who needed winter/summer housing</div> <div>I posted on Twitter under an hour ago and already have like 5+ students in this position speaking up</div> <div>There is no lack of interest</div> <div>This university is trying to make us think we are alone in this</div> <div>It's so much more widespread than we thought</div> <div>Wait in non covid semesters do they allow people to petition to stay over breaks?</div> <div>Actually even during COVID semesters, students can petition to stay for break</div> <div>But they can deny people honestly for any reason</div> <div>Actually, outside of the Haven experience, I remember applying to stay at Wes when lockdown started because I wasn't comfortable going home</div> </div> |
|-----------------------------------|---|

It was so anxiety inducing having to wait for a decision and the process itself makes students hash out their trauma

Just for them to be accepted or denied to have housing

Oh my god I had to petition too and give them "more explanation" which is basically just tell us ALL of your personal home issues

It's so invasive

The process itself can be traumatizing

Like reslife's job should be to make sure students are housed safely

Exactly

Or just let them find their own housing

Also people with Medicaid are just uninsured half the year

Thats my situation as well! Im on Husky health and I only have insurance in CT

Literally during the pandemic their response was just switch to your home state

I dont have that option in Texas bc of our atrocious health care system in this state

Literally in Tennessee they don't even cover you over 21

Yep

React

It's awful



There is no other option

There isn't. That's another reason I stayed on campus for the summer

And I asked Wesleyan if I could come back to campus early bc the situation in my house is not good for my mental health and they just told me no bc it's for thesis students

God that's awful

The only reason I left was cause there was an emergency with one of my friends from home. I will have been insured for literally 3 months out of the year during a fucking pandemic

Literally! I can't get done any of medical stuff done for my hearing or vision which I really need

On top of being scared of what would happen if I catch covid

It's fucking awful

Right? I literally just wanna go to the dentist

Exactly!

I guess point being reslife is literally awful to students and it's just been worsened bc of COVID

absolutely

It's irresponsible and dangerous

Anonymous
Feb. 6, 2021

so when I was an RA as a sophomore, I had a title IX case happening that I decided to disclose to my AC at the time because it was affecting my ability to work. I had just run an event for the freshman about consent and stuff and it was difficult for me, I was worried I did a bad job. I spoke to my AC about it and they were understanding but not super sensitive. They said it was okay and I could just send them the info on email, and told me they would connect me to the SACE office for support (which they never did?). At my next 1 on 1 with her, she brought it up again to basically ask me how I would handle a title IX case coming up for my residents (which I had actually already handled and worked with the SACE office about). She then asked

...

office about). she then asked me something along the lines of: "what if one of your residents was the perp? would you be able to put your personal issues aside and provide them with support?"

Oh my God that is inexcusable

i was so fucking shocked and i kind of just nodded but they kept pushing so i was like yeah i would just direct them to resources. but in general reslife is really awful about Title IX stuff, from making it difficult for students to get room changes and not providing support to their staff. we're expected to be "on the job" all the time when going through something so traumatic.

...

I'm so sorry you had to deal with that, thank you for sharing and being vulnerable. I'm a survivor too and all the discourse on campus can be really hard to hear sometimes.



definitely. i'm really lucky that i had friends to support me through it but at the time felt like such a failure for not being able to put it aside and do my job.

Not at all. They are so good at making you feel like you're the one in the wrong by isolating these cases and making you feel alone and inadequate. That is not the case whatsoever.

...



also another not-related thing, in junior year the CAs i worked with went through a whole several month long process of trying to get a raise bc the CA role is criminally underpaid. We had spreadsheets and calculations showing that we were being paid significantly under minimum wage if we broke it down by hours. after literally months of being ignored, not receiving responses etc they basically told us there was no funds to increase our pay. then COVID started and if we werent on campus we didnt get our final few months of pay, which is insane bc we signed a year long contract.

...

thank you for starting this, i really hope it goes somewhere with changing the way reslife runs things

I hope so too, for all our sakes



Thank you again




of course. i hope you're personal situation improves as well, its really ridiculous that reslife would respond that way.

...

You're completely right

Seen

Anonymous
Feb. 3, 2021

**Jess Burks** @JessicaYBurks · 4h

If Wesleyan reslife has ever not met your needs or left you in an unstable/insecure place PLEASE contact me this is urgent

[Show this thread](#)

hello!! i'm a housing insecure student and in terms of reslife i haven't had an issue yet w immediate housing issues (i was allowed on campus until the 13th in my dorm and then i just returned 2 days ago) — but i will say that currently i don't really have access to meals, the only option is summies and i'd have to use points because i'm not on the winter session meal plan + i'm not an ra

and the points are from fall semester, not spring, and i dont have any fall points left bc frosh only get 250

so my ra has given me his wescard to get meals before and a friend just ordered a meal for me but like it's ridiculous that food is this limited for me right now

7:26 PM

Oh my fucking god this is ridiculous thank you for reaching out

Housing insecurity in any form is really hard and I am sorry you're going through this too.

7:31 PM ✓

i've never thought of it that way holy shit

7:32 PM

It's discrimination against people without a place to go back to

7:32 PM ✓

and thank you yeah it's been a very up & down time i had to house hop twice over break and it was just anxiety inducing and stressful for so many reasons

it definitely is discrimination and it's also classism against local residents

7:33 PM

i also have beef with financial aid too

7:38 PM

like i can't take work study jobs bc i have a scholarship that was applied to work study when i told them i wanted that part of my package to be left alone

even tho i am financially eligible for work study

isn't that fucked !!!!!

7:39 PM

@cryditi on Twitter
Feb. 3, 2021



during which like steph refused to say a word the entire time, bill threatened the HM of X house ("remember when i let you off for that one party,") tried to make me lie for him and ended up making me cry, etc

8:02 PM

Oh my god

8:02 PM ✓

eventually Fran was like fine we'll change the policy back, y'all can stay

but then the next day

bill calls me into his office

8:03 PM

This is so much more widespread than I ever thought

8:03 PM ✓

he "found" alcohol in a "locked closet"

in my house

In a room to which i didnt have a key

8:03 PM

Are you fucking kidding me

8:03 PM ✓

and he was like

well we'll have to let you go

so obviously your residents cant stay for r&c ... but i'll think about giving you your last paycheck

it gets worse

that same day psafe calls me

the middletown police want to talk to me

they won't tell me why

but they were told to talk to me by reslife

so the next day between finals i have to talk to the police

and it was some dumb shit like apparently back in March a scam package was delivered to my house

anyway it was clearly retaliation by reslife

so thats the story

thanks for listening haha

ugh just read the email u sent, classic

8:05 PM

Thank you so much for sharing, I wish more could've been done while you were still there and I'm sorry you had to go through that

8:05 PM ✓

yeah!! i wonder if like

a journalism piece is on order



8:06 PM

this is crazy

how can they like

8:06 PM

It's discriminatory

8:06 PM ✓

deny someone housing

it's disgusting

They are predatory

8:07 PM ✓

yeah

there's no empathy

or respect

it's just ab protecting their own asses

legit i worked w tons of admin and reslife is hands down the worst wes institution

everyone who works there should be fired

8:08 PM



And money

8:08 PM ✓

yeah i wish id done more when i was a student
to call this shit out



but I was so scared they'd make me homeless
lol

8:09 PM

I hate having to ask other students for their stories
because it's literally putting them in danger

But at the same time we kind of already are

8:11 PM ✓

yup

i think it's reached the point where its more
important/safe to speak up

esp w the stuff you just mentioned



and pressure works ♡ ...

8:11 PM

And all of these reforms are depending on the people
being hurt to do somethinf

actually i forgot to tell you but

i got my hm job back

when they tried to fire me



because my friends spread the story on social
media

8:12 PM

God yeah basically they won't provide us with year
round housing and they also won't let us live off
campus

8:12 PM ✓

that reslife was randomly looking rhru locked
closets



and so fran literally begged me

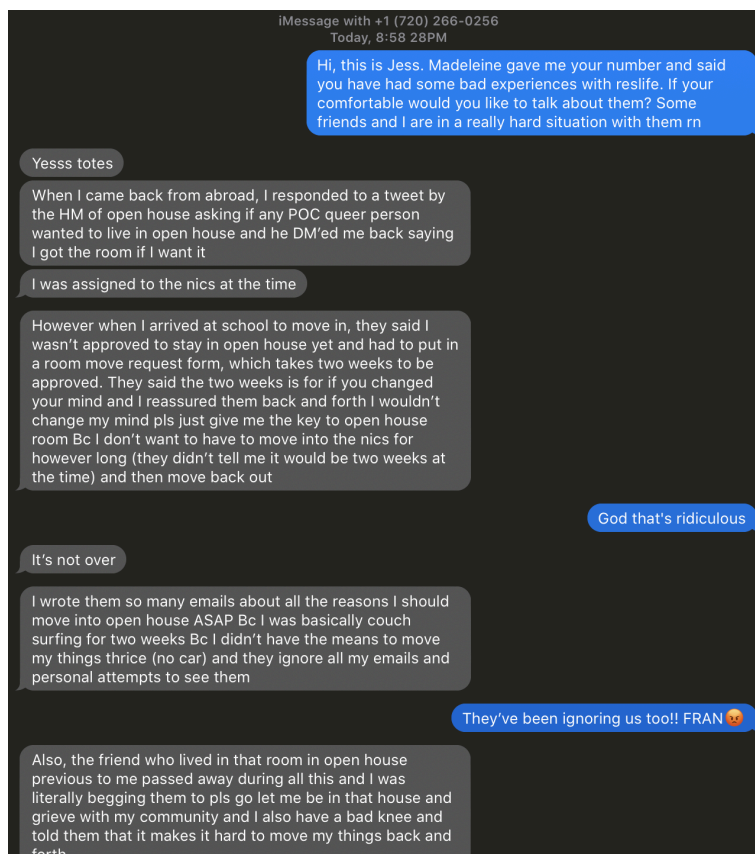
8:12 PM

So this does work

8:12 PM ✓



An Pham
Feb. 3, 2021



Today, 9:11:55 PM
red all of this

Then at the end of the two weeks, after I've been literally couch surfing and going to classes and meetings and living out of suitcases, bill from reslife called me in for a meeting and was like oh btw if you'd met with office of disabilities about ur knee, that would've bypassed any waiting period.....AT THE END OF MY WAITING PERIOD

So ya bill and Fran from reslife are pls excuse my French literal cunts and I hate how dysfunctional reslife is sm

It is fucking discriminatory and I'm so sorry you had to go through all that, especially in a grieving period.

Thank you for sharing all of this, it helps more than you know

Delivered

Fox Hayes
Feb. 3, 2021

8:34 PM

I had an absolutely horrible exp with realize

And I have fucking screen shots

It was awful getting a single when so many others found it such an easy process

...

I was fucking dying mental health wise and they didn't give a fuck until they saw my official adhd paperwork

I believe the wording was make you as comfortable as the space you're in

And it was not listened to until I talked to access services

They're useless half the time too

10:25 PM

Yep. And they only listen to serious concerns if there is medical paperwork to back it up. It's fucked up.

My god, that's awful

So my case is definately not as extreme as others (it's definately tame). But I was dealing with pretty severe mental health issues (anxiety, adhd) and my area coordinator said he could schedule a call to make me "as comfortable as you could be in the situation youre in" and told me to go through accessibility services (and not everyone has access to healthcare that would allow for a legit diagnosis of anxiety and depression)

...

I had to go above his head, and reslife, and talk to Dean Whaley

And my situation immediately changed

But the reasons he listed for being unable to move me were bullshit

Something about how it was too much stress on physical plant to sanitize my old and new room

But 1) I had a roommmate who would be staying

And 2) my new room was not sanitized at all, it looked like nobody had touched it in a year

...

And then after I got permission to move (which I had to get from accessibility services for my fucking adhd because I have no legit dx of mental

And 2) my new room was not sanitized at all, it looked like nobody had touched it in a year

And then after I got permission to move (which I had to get from accessibility services for my fucking adhd because I have no legit dx of mental health stuff) he sent a shady email about how it was unfortunate I felt I needed to move or some shit like that

...

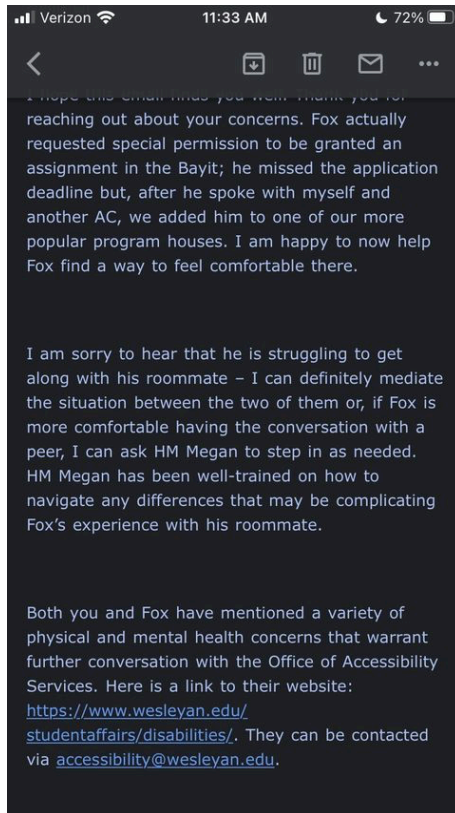


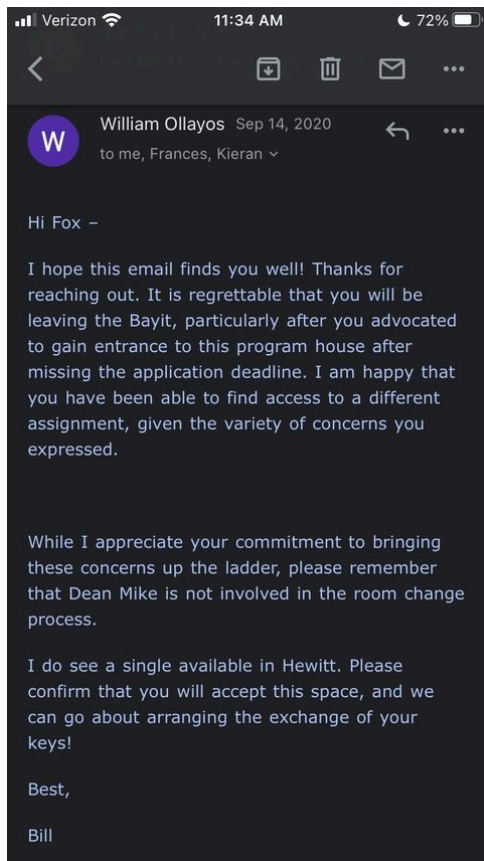
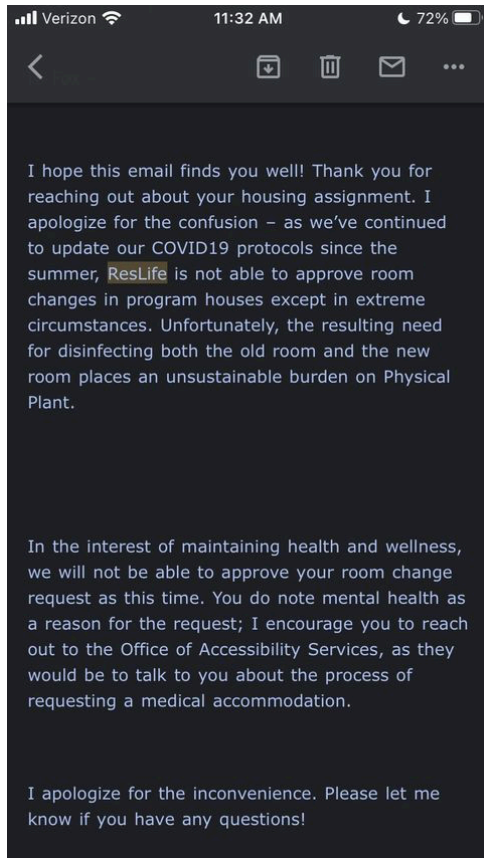
2:19 AM

That is absolutely ridiculous and entirely as valid as any other issues with reslife, don't discount it.

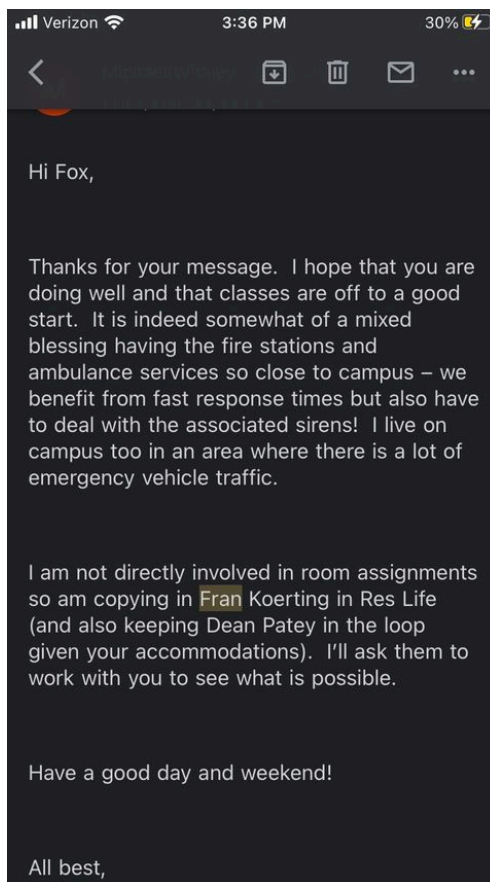


Emails from admin:





More emails, note the tone shift after Dean Mike was involved.




Madison Szabo
Feb. 3, 2021

Wednesday 11:24 PM

Hey Jess! Saw your post regarding Wes housing and wanted to share my experiences.


Physical Plant Work Order

My roommate, [REDACTED], and I request new mattresses, desk chairs, and a certified mold removal and remediation process of our Nics 6003 two-room double prior to our arrival on Sat., Aug. 29. [REDACTED] visited our residence on Sun., Aug. 23 to find both mattresses and desk chairs covered with white mold (powdery mildew). She was also very taken aback by the disgusting smell of both rooms. Students have a right to a healthy living environment, especially during a global pandemic. Facility management has an obligation to educate students about the health risks involved in a mold outbreak. I intend to call Physical Plant on Mon., Aug. 24 to follow up. Thank you.






Here is a copy of the work order form I submitted to Physical Plant following the discovery of WHITE MOLD in Nics 6.

Oh wow that's completely unacceptable! Did they do anything about it?



Message...



My roommate arrived to see fans in the halls. She later found the mold everywhere in our room. Later, the ENTIRE floor was informed that they'd be relocated due to (get this!!!) "a Physical Plant issue." NO EXPLANATION!

My roommate and I did not feel safe, so we requested to be moved elsewhere. ResLife gave us such a hard time. After begging and pleading, we were moved to Hewitt. Now I deal with a centipede problem 🤨 but I'll take it over mold any day!



That's crazy oh my god

also such a terrible response