



August 24, 2020

Dear residents,

This morning, RHA's Executive Board met with Carolina Housing senior leadership to express residents' concerns regarding the Fall 2020 move out. After gathering your feedback, we presented the following points:

1. The University was slow to pause classes.
 - a. This is continuing to make it more difficult for students to find new housing plans and move out. On campus students are at a significant disadvantage as classes continue.
 - b. There is a need for more transparency with regards to Carolina Housing's advocacy efforts – in this circumstance, specifically for students in need of time off from classes. How is the department using its leverage to advocate for students - particularly those who are at a financial disadvantage?
2. Students are now asked to move off-campus, but this transition happened very quickly and without adequate testing/safety measures. This has led to serious concerns about students unintentionally spreading COVID-19 among family and community members.
 - a. As students move off campus, how is Carolina Housing supporting their transition and search for new living arrangements?
3. RAs that may be dependent on their income face uncertain employment and need clarity on what the semester entails. Many of them do not feel safe on campus but are worried that if they cancel their housing contract they will no longer be employed.
4. The financial aid situation is vague and many students do not know where they stand.
5. The mental health of students is deeply affected by their need to determine their living arrangements while simultaneously performing in their classes - two days off from class is not enough.
6. The hardship process has been unclear and students are not sure if they are going to be accepted.

While from our meeting, it is clear that Carolina Housing does not have complete autonomy in decisions regarding the operation of on-campus housing, we have asked the department leadership for more transparency with on-campus residents and advocacy that continues to center the student experience. Carolina Housing hears our concerns and is working hard on our behalf.

As an Executive Board consisting of students, many of whom have been living on campus, we share the uncertainty and emotional turmoil facing this community regarding living arrangements. As per our mission statement, RHA will continue to advocate for your needs and ensure that students are being prioritized in decision making.

We urge you to stay in contact with us and continue to share concerns via our **Resident Concerns Form** that can be found on our social media and website. We understand that this is an extremely difficult time for everyone who lived on campus this semester.

We will continue to meet with Carolina Housing senior leadership this semester, next semester, and in the future via our regularly scheduled Housing Advisory Board meetings to foster a culture of accountability that centers the student experience first and foremost. We have reflected with Carolina Housing about the events that have transpired since move-in and are looking forward to strengthening our communication and involvement in Spring 2021 Housing plans.

For the Residents,

RHA Executive Board 2020-2021