

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE  
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

**F11-4, Policy Recommendation, Frosh Housing Requirement at San José State University**

**Legislative History:**

The University established a frosh housing requirement as part of its impaction plan. At its meeting of December 5, 2011, the Academic Senate approved the following policy recommendation presented by Senators Sabalius and Gleixner for the Executive Committee.

**Action by University President: Approved and signed by President Mohammad Qayoumi on December 13, 2011.**

**Policy Recommendation  
FROSH Housing Requirement at San José State University**

- Whereas The University, as part of its impaction plan, has established a frosh housing requirement to meet SJSU’s associated costs of the on-campus housing facilities; and
- Whereas SJSU’s current 6 year graduation rate for first time frosh is 47%, and the University is striving towards significantly improving that rate. There is substantial evidence in repeated national studies that students benefit by living in an academically supportive environment during their first year in college including substantially higher engagement on campus, GPAs, retention, graduation rates, and overall academic success; and
- Whereas SJSU is bringing more resources to students in housing including advising, counseling, and tutoring; so be it
- Resolved that the following housing policy be enacted, and be it further,
- Resolved that the Housing Exemption Committee will make a report to the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee in Spring 2013 on the exemption petitions received to determine if the policy needs to be re-evaluated.

## **Frosh Housing Requirement at San José State University**

- I. Housing requirement:
  - A. All first time SJSU frosh are required to reside in University housing.
  - B. Students may be exempted from this requirement on the basis of one of three criteria
    - 1. Categorical Exemption: Students document that they fit a category for exemption as listed in Section II of this policy.
    - 2. Exemption by Petition: Students may petition for exemptions for other reasons, e.g. unique employment situations; care giver need or obligation; documented religious practices not compatible with University housing; documented medical, psychological or disability not compatible with University housing; financial need not covered in II.F; living with an immediate family member or equivalent; international students. Each petition for exemption will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
    - 3. The University is unable to provide a space in University housing.
- II. Categorical Exemptions: The following categories of students will be exempt from the Frosh housing requirement
  - A. Age 21 or older as of the first day of class
  - B. The high school from which they graduated is within 30 miles from SJSU's main campus
  - C. Independent (as defined by Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid: FAFSA)
  - D. Current active military or U.S. military veteran status
  - E. Married/Domestic partnership and/or with legally dependent children
  - F. Financial hardship, as defined by the following steps
    - 1. If eligible to apply, the student must have applied for financial aid.
    - 2. The student must have unmet financial need or need met only with unsubsidized loans. Financial need is defined as the calculated Cost of Attendance (including the proposed Housing Plan) minus the Expected Family Contribution (as defined by the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Methodology Calculation, calculated via the FAFSA or its successor).
- III. Housing Exemption Committee:
  - A. The charge of the Housing Exemption Committee is to implement this policy.
  - B. Membership of the Housing Exemption Committee will be:
    - 1. Director of Housing or designee who shall Chair the committee
    - 2. A representative from Student Health Services appointed by the Director of the Student Health Center

3. A representative from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship appointed by the Director of Financial Aid & Scholarship
  4. A representative from the Disability Resource Center appointed by the Director of the Disability Resource Center
  5. A representative from Enrollment Services appointed by the AVP for Enrollment Services
  6. A representative from Counseling Services appointed by the Director of Counseling Services
  7. A representative from the University housing business operations (non-voting)
  8. Three students appointed by Associated Students. One student must be an AS Officer. The other students must be in at least their second years at SJSU. Preferably one student will have lived in campus housing during her/his frosh year, and one student will have lived off campus during her/his frosh year.
  9. Two faculty appointed by the Academic Senate. The Senate shall give preference to faculty with professional credentials immediately relevant to understanding student demographics, diversity, life and success at a university and to faculty who regularly advise and teach first year undergraduates.
- C. The Housing Exemption committee shall be responsible for determining what documentation will be required for substantiating a student's membership in a particular category of exemption, e.g., letters from employers, financial aid forms, military discharge papers, etc.
- D. The Exemption committee shall be responsible for reviewing the submitted documents and exempting students based on their membership in one of the exemption categories.
- E. The Housing Exemption Committee will provide a report annually to the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee that will be used to review this policy to make appropriate modifications.

Selected References:

Kuh, George D., Kinzie, J., Buckley, Jennifer A., Bridges, Brian K., Hayek, John C., "Piecing Together the Student Success Puzzle: Research, Propositions, and Recommendations," ASHE Higher Education Report, Volume 32, Number 5, (2007).

Pascarella, Ernest and Terenzini, Patrick, How College Affects Students, volume 2: A Third Decade of Research, Jossey-Bass, (2005).

Pascarella, E, Terenzini, P., and Bliming, G, "The Impact of Residential Life on Students", In C. Schroeder and P. Mable (eds.) Realizing the Educational Potential of Residence Halls, Jossey-Bass (1994).

Originally Approved by I&SA:

Approved: October 3, 2011  
Vote: 12-1-1  
Present: Bill Campsey, Yan Yin Choy, Victor Culatta, Jean-Luc Desalvo, Caroline Fee, Stacy Gleixner (Chair), Richard Kelley, Art King, Deanna Peck, Tanmay Sharma, Arlando Smith, Katrina Swanson, Sheryl Walters, Ken Wharton  
Financial Impact: Moderate addition of funds to University, financial burden to some students  
Workload Impact: Added workload to Housing and to the Housing Exemption Committee

Modified and endorsed by the Executive Committee

Approved: 11/28/2011  
Vote: 15-0-0  
Present: Qayoumi, Selter, Nance, Bibb, Bussani, Von Till, Heiden, Kaufman, Sabalius, Bros, McClory, Gleixner, Kimbarow, Ng, Kolodziejak  
Absent: None  
Financial Impact: See above  
Workload Impact: See above