

**KENAI PENINSULA COLLEGE**

**COLLEGE COUNCIL REPORT**

April 16, 2020

RBES-Seward, 6:00 p.m.

Department: KRC Residence Life

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# Occupancy

Current occupancy includes six students and six student staff. The drop in occupancy was the direct result of President Johnson’s mandate to close all residence halls in response to COVID 19.

The six students that remain in the residence hall were granted exemptions and allowed to stay in the hall. Exemptions were given for the following reasons:

* Two would otherwise be homeless,
* Two are unable to return to their village because the village has stopped all travel in/out of village,
* One is an international student whose country is not accepting international flights and
* One is an out of town student completing her paramedic clinicals.

All students who moved out of the residence hall were refunded a proration of their housing fees and their deposit.

Student staff have remained in the hall to help assist the remaining students as well as support the Central Peninsula Hospital staff. Central Peninsula Hospital will be using the residence hall to house hospital staff who may not able to stay at their homes; i.e, if a family member has travelled out of state or a family member tests positive for the virus.

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# COVID 19 Response

Tammie Willis serves on the UA Housing Incident Management Team and works with housing directors from UAA, UAF and UAS to develop responses to the constantly changing housing issues presented by COVID 19. The Housing IMT meets weekly with Ron Schwartz from UA’s IMT.

Residence Life has created a quarantine plan in the event a student must quarantine in the residence hall and the criteria that would indicate a student needs to quarantine. This plan ensures that quarantined students can have access to their courses and course materials as well as makes sure they have adequate food, the ability to monitor their health and access to medical care as needed.

Residence Life staff have shifted grocery runs to grocery pickups. Instead of taking students grocery shopping weekly, students can order their groceries online and staff will pick them up from the store as needed.

Meal plans were refunded to students to ensure they had funds to purchase groceries. Students are also still able to access the hall’s food pantry.

Leslie Byrd conducted a survey of all students to gauge student concerns and identify needs for students supports in response to the pandemic and the steps UA has taken in regard to the pandemic. Student response ranged greatly from no worries to high levels of anxiety. In response to the results, staff have been providing additional facts and information about the virus to students, ensuring students have information about who to call for what and keeping students informed of what they can be doing to help slow the spread of the virus.

Front desk and office have been closed. Residence life has implemented a 24-hour duty rotation for student staff, who are accessible to students and guests by calling the front desk phone number. Professional staff are also on duty 24/7.

Tammie Willis is working remotely while Leslie Byrd remains on site. Because Leslie is on site to ensure that a physical response can be provided if needed, Leslie has been removed from the professional duty rotation. Tammie manages most duty calls and only involves Leslie if a physical response is needed. Piera Larosa is also assisting with professional duty calls as needed.

All students were consolidated into the short wing to free up the long wing to provide temporary housing to community medical professionals and first responders.

Leslie Byrd and the student staff worked overtime to clean and prepare all apartments on the long wing of the residence hall for temporary housing for Central Peninsula Hospital staff who are not able to return home during the COVID 19 pandemic. This process typically takes three weeks but was completed in an “all hands-on deck” approach to reduce the turn around time to just 3 days.

Residence Life staff have been supporting one student in quarantine. He self-identified as needing to quarantine because he had encountered several people from the lower 48 that recently arrived in Alaska but did not quarantine for 14 days as required. He is not currently symptomatic.

# Off Campus Housing Transition

Residence Life staff has continued to work toward helping students transition to off campus housing in preparation for the hall’s one year hiatus. Staff have identified several rental agents willing to defer deposits and first month rents from KPC residential students until after KPC housing fees and deposits have been refunded. This effectively allows students to move off campus without having the necessary funds up front and instead, to be able to use their housing refunds to pay those fees once they are received. This has removed the financial barrier that was preventing students from being able to move off campus.

Currently there are only three more students in need of help transitioning to off campus housing. The current hold-up is that they are hunkered down in the hall and unable to schedule a time to see the housing that is available. Tammie Willis is working with rental agents to try to create a virtual tour of the available housing for those students.

Residence Life is also compiling a list of housing resources and working on a brochure that can be handed out by student service staff to assist students in finding housing in the future.

# Programming

Programming has been replaced with student check-ins and intentional conversations via phone, email and Zoom in order to practice social distancing and still engage students during this stressful time.