



BROWN

Campus Life and Student Services
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March 19, 2008

Dear Brown Students,

For a number of years, Brown has offered gender-neutral housing options in residence hall apartments and suites for upper-class students. We have had requests from students to provide more gender-neutral housing options, especially for sophomore students who often are not able to choose apartments or suites in the housing lottery. Over the past year we have looked closely at what other colleges and universities are doing in this area and consulted extensively with the appropriate campus governing bodies. The result of that process is that beginning with this year's housing lottery, the Office of Residential Life has designated, as a pilot program, double rooms in Marcy, Goddard, Harkness, Caswell, New Pembroke #1 and New Pembroke #2 as having the option of being gender neutral. This pilot program encompasses about one-third of the double rooms available to upper-class students. All remaining doubles will be assigned as male- or female-only in the housing lottery.

These rooms are made available in the lottery and selected in the exact same manner as all other housing units. The selection of gender-neutral optional housing units will be by student choice only; no student will be assigned to a gender-neutral living situation without his or her express consent. All students who select a housing unit which is designated as gender neutral optional must agree to the Gender Neutral Optional Housing Policy.

The Gender-Neutral Housing Policy contains general conditions for participation which apply to gender-neutral housing. Students should review those conditions carefully and understand the obligations and responsibilities they are assuming by electing gender-neutral housing. Staff in the Office of Residential Life are available to speak with students about this program and answer questions or concerns.

Brown and most universities discourage students of any sexual orientation who are in a relationship from living together in a residence hall housing unit, although we do not question the students' motives for wanting to live together. Further, the Office of Residential Life encourages students who are choosing to live in gender-neutral optional housing to discuss their choice with their parents so that their parents can be supportive of their choice.

Sincerely,

Russell C. Carey
Interim Vice President
Campus Life and Student Services