



## Accommodations Requests in Housing Application Process Resolution 19-20-02

**Whereas** stated in the values of the University of San Francisco, “The Jesuit hallmark of *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person, describes the respect we have for each person’s intellectual, physical, and spiritual health and autonomy.”

**Whereas** not only should the university be committed to diversity by “representing the full range of race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual identity, socioeconomic background, and political beliefs,” but should ensure students of ranging abilities are included in our diverse community as well by providing them with a welcoming and accessible campus environment;

**Whereas** students with disabilities are not communicated concurrently for accommodation options when applying for housing through the current housing application process;

**Whereas** stated by Aveda Lipton ‘22, “As a student with disabilities the most challenging part of attending USF is not my physical restrictions, but the disconnect between Student Disability Services and SHARE. Something as simple as putting up a ramp for an hour on a dorm building took over 20 emails between me, SDS, and SHARE, but still eventually lead to no avail. Additionally, these departments put me in a dorm that did not meet my crucial medical needs. The accommodations that I need have been made explicitly clear to SDS, but still I was left in an unhealthy housing situation. I had to make numerous calls and emails in an attempt to fix SHARE and SDS’ mistake. I have done everything right in my communications with SDS about housing, but I was still neglected. The proposed resolution would positively impact so many students on campus. A clear line of communication between disabled students and SHARE in the application process is essential to the success of having a truly inclusive campus.”

**Whereas** examples of housing accommodations that can be provided are not listed on the webpages of SHaRE or SDS;

**Whereas** UC Berkeley has a housing application that provides accommodation for students with disabilities comparable to the requested change, wherein “The first phase of the application process has several steps, including an “accommodations” section where students can indicate that they may have a disability or identity-based need for an accommodation in University housing. For confidentiality reasons, the housing application does not allow for students to input personal information regarding their disability. This can be done during the interactive process following your application submission.”

<https://housing.berkeley.edu/students-disabilities>

**Whereas** the burden of responsibility for housing accommodations should not rely on just the persons needing accommodations but those providing such accommodations;

**Whereas** Torry Brouillard-Bruce, the Director of Student Housing and Residential Education, Tom Merrell, the Director of Student Disability Services, and Julie Orio, the Vice Provost for Student Life stated that, “Upon review of the resolution, the undersigned provide full support of the resolution as written. As a Division of Student Life made up of many offices driven to support students, we believe that each student has unique needs and challenges. We strive to meet each student where they are at and support them however possible. The accommodation process managed by SDS, and implemented by SHaRE for housing specific requests, is crucial to supporting students. This resolution helps provide guidance to better educate students on what housing accommodations are available and how to access information and resources in support of accommodation needs.”

**Resolved:** SHaRE should publicize a statement on their website affirming and supporting those who are in need of accommodations and collaborates with other offices throughout the university in support of students’ accommodations requests;

**Resolved:** SHaRE should provide a space on their housing application for students to disclose the need for a housing accommodation. This process would allow students to note need and upon noting that need they will be given directions on the process for requesting an accommodation through SDS. This process will involve immediate information in the form of a pop-out window as well as a follow-up email with direct information on how to request SDS services for an accommodation;

**Resolved:** After SHaRE receives applications noting requests for accommodations they will share a summary list of all who noted potential need for accommodation with SDS. SDS will inform SHaRE of any approved accommodations and SHaRE will work directly with the students in support of the approved accommodation.

Submitted by:

Marisol Castro, Students with Disabilities Representative

Supported by:

Julie Orio, Vice Provost for Student Life

Torry Brouillard-Bruce, Senior Director of Student Housing and Residential Education

Tom Merrell, Assistant Dean and Director of Student Disability Services