

EZRA STILES

(RISING) SOPHOMORE HOUSING

SPRING 2019

Congrats Meese of **2022!** You are almost 2/3 of the way through your first year! This means that you can now begin the exciting process of picking your suitemates for next year. Please read this info sheet in its entirety since the housing process has several steps and important deadlines. For housing purposes, you are considered “rising sophomores”.

In Ezra Stiles, the Dean is responsible for all housing assignments. Room allocation is implemented by the housing committee, which is composed of the Dean and two permanent representatives from each class. Any housing concerns should be addressed to the committee and they will respect confidential communications. Your class Housing Committee (HoCo) representatives are **Reta Behnam** and **Tony Leche**.

Ezra Stiles College housing is determined by a lottery system that acknowledges seniority. Rising sophomores are guaranteed housing for the sophomore year. All sophomores must share a bedroom with one other person, and the chosen roommate can be of any gender. As of now, the following housing options are available to sophomores although these numbers may vary slightly between now and the housing draw:¹

- **11** 4-person suites (2 doubles)
- **6** 6-person suites (3 doubles)
- **4** 8-person suites (4 doubles)

I. WHAT TO DO BEFORE SPRING BREAK

a. **Wednesday, February 20 until noon on Friday, March 8:**

All rising sophomores log into Vesta, the online system, and register intent to live on-campus.

- Attend Mandatory Info Session and HoCo Mixer:** A mandatory rising Sophomore info session will be held in the Crescent Theater on **Monday, March 4 at 9:00 pm**. Dean P will run the meeting and you will have an opportunity to ask questions. Your HoCo reps will also throw a delicious food-fueled housing mixer on **Thursday, March 7 at 9:30 pm** and will help answer questions about the housing process and facilitate conversations between students who may be looking for room/suitemates.

- Talk to Each Other:** Talk to your classmates and find a group of suitemates. If you cannot find a full suite, at a minimum, find one person with whom you would like to share a room (attend the HoCo housing mixer on **March 7** to find other students looking for roomies) and inform your HoCo reps or the Dean without delay that you cannot form a full suite. They will be able to help.

¹ *The housing stock available to your class will only be finalized once upper-level Moose confirm whether they are living on-campus next year. So the numbers will remain in flux until after spring break.*

- c. **View the Stiles Floorplans:** Large hard-copy printouts of the Stiles floorplans are available for viewing in the office (they need to remain in the office).
- d. **Special Accommodations:** If you are requesting special housing accommodations for legitimate health or religious reasons, meet with the Resource Office on Disabilities (medical) or Chaplain's Office (religious) to register your need for accommodation, be prepared to provide documentation, then email Dean P. by **Friday, March 8** to inform her about your authorized request.
 - i. Note that if you were eligible for accommodations last year, eligibility does not "roll-over" to future years, but must be documented each year with either the Resource Office on Disabilities or the Chaplain's Office.

II. WHAT TO DO DURING SPRING BREAK

- a. Take a break, relax, have fun.
- b. If your housing plans are still up in the air alert the Dean and/or your HoCo reps so they can try to help you out or offer some guidance.

III. RIGHT AFTER SPRING BREAK: FORM AND FINALIZE GROUPS ONLINE

- a. Appoint a "Group Leader" for your lottery-group (the groups of students who will constitute your suite) who will be primarily responsible for logging information into the online housing system (Vesta).
- b. **Group Formation: Monday, March 25 – Wednesday, March 27**
 - i. **Group Leaders** create a lottery-group in Vesta and invite others in your group/suite to join. Group Leaders can select a group "size" which can be changed until the group is finalized.
 - 1. Students can ask to join a given group that is not yet full and can withdraw if they so choose before the group is finalized. When a group is full and all members confirm their participation in the group, the leader can "finalize" it, i.e., it can no longer be modified. **Pro tip:** Students can view a page with information about the housing stock available, other students without groups, and all existing groups. Vesta should be a tool you use to find roommates, see other open groups, etc., and not just a place to track the final groups.
 - 2. Use the time between 3/25 and 3/27 wisely to view the system for information that will be useful for you. Vesta will show the demand statistics for all rising sophomore suites. View those and ask some important questions - how many suite configurations are oversubscribed? Should you disband and reconfigure into a suite-type that has less demand? If a group doesn't seem to have sufficient students, should you join them?

c. **Midnight on Wednesday, March 27**

- i. All groups must be finalized before midnight on 3/27 (hopefully sooner). This is a very hard deadline. Those who do not adhere to this deadline will be placed at the bottom of the lottery [*not* a fun place].

IV. PRE-DRAW (Only for Oversubscribed Groups)

a. **Thursday, March 28** (9:00 p.m. location TBA)

- i. You will only need to participate in a pre-draw if you are trying to get a suite-type that is oversubscribed. For instance, if there are 5 groups of 8 students vying for the 4 available octets, the pre-draw will decide which group will not get an octet.
- ii. If you wanted to get an octet but the pre-draw determined that you did not get one, then you will need to log into Vesta, look at the available housing stock that's not oversubscribed, and reconfigure your group to fit the available suite sizes. Bottom line - have a plan B or C if you are vying for a suite-type that is in high demand.
- iii. At the end of the pre-draw, everyone in your class will know what *type* of suite they will live in next year.

Pro-tip: Stay away from oversubscribed groups if you do not want the uncertainty of disbanding and reconfiguring yourselves last minute to fit available housing stock and/or matching with classmates who find themselves in a similar situation.

V. HOUSING CARNIVAL!!! (a.k.a. FINAL HOUSING DRAW)

Yes, it's really a carnival – come see how we get a ferris wheel inside the D.H.

a. **Thursday, April 4** in the Dining Hall at 9:00 PM

- i. During this event, Dean P “hits the button” and Vesta will magically assign lottery numbers to each group (i.e., suite). The lottery numbers define the order in which you choose specific suites within your suite-type.
- ii. Each lottery-group/suite, based on their lottery number, walks on stage and picks the suite they want by placing a sticker on the extra-large floor plan that will be on display. If a group cannot attend the draw, they need to appoint a proxy who will participate on their behalf. Alert HoCo reps of proxy appointment. With sufficient notice, HoCo reps may also serve as proxies – but sort that out ahead of time.
- iii. **Housing Contracts:** As soon as the group secures a suite by placing their sticker on the floor plan, each person in the suite is required to walk up to the HoCo table on the stage and sign the Housing Contract for the 2019/2020 Academic Year. This is a legally binding contract. Those who later back out of contracted on-campus housing will have to pay a not-insignificant housing penalty. No exceptions.

1. When students sign their housing contract, they will be asked to indicate their room # as well.
2. After the carnival, room changes will need to be made in writing to the Dean's office (see "Room Switching" below).

HOUSING RULES

Before the Housing Draw

1. **Spring Term Housing Only.** Requests for second-semester housing for students who will be abroad or on leave in the fall must be submitted by November 30. Every attempt will be made to accommodate returning students seeking second-semester housing but cannot be guaranteed.
2. **Class Definitions: Sophomore/Junior/Senior.** For purposes of the housing rules, a student is a member of the class he or she will enter in the upcoming fall. A current first-year will be defined as a sophomore in these rules, a current sophomore as a junior, and a current junior as a senior. (See Rule 3 on acceleration.)
3. **Acceleration, Leaves, and Withdrawals.** Acceleration does not affect class status for purposes of housing. Students participate in the lottery of their original entering class. First-year students enter the sophomore lottery; second-year students, the junior; third-year students, the senior. A student who takes off one term is for housing purposes a member of his or her original class. A student who takes off two or more terms and returns to a different class will be considered for housing purposes a member of the new class. No student who is currently withdrawn from Yale may participate in a lottery even though he or she anticipates reinstatement in the upcoming fall term.
4. **Students Currently Abroad or on Leave.** Students who are currently taking a term abroad or a semester off may be included in the lottery only if they intend to be enrolled in Yale this coming fall. To be counted in the lottery, such students must notify the Dean's Office in writing of their intention to live in Stiles next fall and designate someone (a housing proxy) to act on their behalf in the lottery. If the student cannot find another student to be their proxy, they may ask for their class' Housing Committee representatives to serve as their proxy.
5. **Mixed-Year Housing.** Any requests to live with members of another year will be handled on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed. We will do our best to accommodate people who legitimately want these arrangements. For mixed-year housing, class is determined by the lowest year. This means that the upper-level students in the group will enter the lower-level student's draw. **Please talk to the Housing Committee no later than March 25th if you plan to live in a group that has students from different classes.**
6. **Co-ed Housing.** Rising seniors, juniors and sophomores can live in mixed gender rooms and mixed gender suites. In fact, unless specifically designated by the dean, all floors will also be mixed gender.
7. **Special Needs or Housing Concerns.** Any student with a special need or a housing concern should meet with the dean well before March 8 to discuss these issues. The dean will try to accommodate these students but does not guarantee any special arrangements. The student must obtain appropriate approval from the Resource Office on Disabilities or the Chaplain's Office about special accommodations. *If you received an extraordinary waiver last year, that waiver will not apply/carry

over to future years. You will need to reapply or re-register with the above-mentioned offices and notify the dean of your plan as soon as possible.

The Housing Draw

1. **Lottery Groups.** If any of the people in your lottery group (i.e., group of students who will form your suite) change or drop out after the March 27 deadline, the Housing Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action (e.g., assigning students to the room or giving the suite last pick in the draw.). Late applicants automatically get last pick in their respective lotteries.
2. **Lotteries.** Lotteries determine the order in which students pick their rooms. Everyone is welcome to observe this process in the name of transparency. There are separate lotteries for the sophomore, junior, and senior classes.
3. **Decisions are Final.** Any and all decisions made at the draw are final, and it is your responsibility to attend the draw. If there are extenuating circumstances that require you to miss the draw, you must designate a proxy and have this person sign the form and attend the room draw for you. Please alert the Housing Committee of any such arrangements and see McKenzie for the proxy form.
4. **Best Behavior.** The Committee reserves the right to expel from the room draw proceedings anyone who causes a disturbance or who otherwise disrupts the room draw. The Committee will represent those expelled for the remainder of the draw.
5. **Housing Contracts.** At the time students choose a room, they will sign a contract for that room. Usually, this happens before a group leaves the stage.
6. Anyone who participates in room draw and then decides to relinquish his/her housing in order to live off-campus or to take a leave of absence is also subject to a fine of 1/4 of the fall term room rate, as stated in the Yale College Undergraduate Regulations.

After the Housing Draw

1. **Room Switching.** If two suites or individuals wish to exchange rooms, they must do so by contacting the Dean's Office. All members of both suites must agree to any and all switches in writing (see McKenzie for the form). **A student who has signed a contract may not switch rooms without permission from the dean. If it is discovered that a student has done so without permission, he/she will have to move to their assigned room and will automatically be placed at the bottom of the following year's housing draw.**
2. **Smoking.** Smoking is prohibited on campus. If a student is discovered to have smoked in the college, the student will be placed at the bottom of the housing draw for the following year.
3. **Pets.** Pets are not allowed to reside in the college, with the notable exception of Machang the Disgruntled, Aqua, and Eero.

General Rules

1. **All questions in writing.** If you have any questions or concerns about housing in Stiles that are not explained in this document, you must submit them in writing (this includes e-mail) to your class's housing reps, who will bring them before the committee.
2. **Doubles are Doubles.** Should your roommate leave to study abroad or for any other reason, the Dean may fill that empty bed without prior notice according to the needs of the college.
3. **New Stilesians.** Stiles may house up to 4 unknown students next year: 2 transfer students from other universities, and 2 visiting rising juniors from international universities. Groups may agree to take one or more of these students as a member of their suite. Groups that wish to exercise this option must inform the Housing Committee in writing before they submit their intent on Vesta. In all cases, seniority rules.

Elastic Clause. The Housing Committee reserves the right to modify the rules at any time if the situation warrants. In addition, suite assignments can be changed to ensure fairness and to make sure that everyone has a place to live. All decisions will be made at the discretion of the Housing Committee, the Dean, and the Head of College. All decisions are final.

STILES 2019 HOUSING COMMITTEE

Dean Nilakshi Parndigamage

Class of 2019
Jared Weinstein

Class of 2020
Omid Rooholfada
Gina Zhu

Class of 2021
Jaeger Johnson
Bleu Wells

Class of 2022
Reta Behnam
Tony Leche