

Luther College

Co-Ed Baker Proposal

Introduction:

We, members of the Luther College student body, propose the option of Co-Ed housing in Baker Village. By the term "Co-Ed housing," we are referring to a housing arrangement where a group of people of any sex or gender can apply to reside together in a house in Baker Village, with double rooms being same-sex. This would provide an opportunity for senior students to reside with their closest friends regardless of gender or sex, better reflecting the possibilities of housing post-Luther. Furthermore, it would allow people of varying gender and sexuality to live in a community where they feel more comfortable than the traditional single gendered housing options. The current policy reflects the idea that students' friend groups consist of only one sex and gender. This idea is not consistent with Luther's mission of embracing diversity, nor does it reflect Luther's student body today. The proposed policy would allow senior students residing on campus the freedom to live with those whom they consider their closest friends or best suited housemates regardless of gender, and would make it easier for students to assemble groups to apply to live in Baker Village.

Process of Room Assignment:

The application process and timeline for Baker Village would remain as is. The only addition would be to include the option for students to apply in Co-Ed groups. In Baker houses with double rooms, residents would only be allowed to room with persons of the same sex. Co-Ed and single gender housing applications would be weighed equally without designating any number of houses as Co-Ed or single gender. This would ensure that all houses would be filled.

Reasons for Proposal:

"Luther College is a residential college. All full-time students are required to live in college-owned housing unless married, of nontraditional age (23 years or older), or commuting from their legal guardians' homes."

- Luther College Residency Requirement, taken from Residence Life Policies & Procedures

Under the current policy, students are unable to seek housing arrangements other than offered by Luther College. Baker Village represents an option of independence to Seniors living on campus. However, this is not reflected in the fact that groups of only one gender may apply to reside in a house together. Students who wish to live in Baker Village may be unable to find a group of six same-sex housemates whom they would feel comfortable sharing this more intimate residential space with. The proposed policy would make groups of six easier to assemble and would allow students to reside with their closest friends in the community where they feel most at home and comfortable. Furthermore, the proposed policy would better reflect the diversity of the Luther College student body.

Housing Assignments:

Under the current Residence Life website, there has been no option for Co-Ed Baker Housing. Currently stated under room draw information:

"Phase One of room draw begins at the start of spring term. Guidelines and applications are available on this website for Baker Village, Prairie Houses, Sustainability House, College Apartments with kitchens, Farwell co-ed eight-single-room cluster, Norby Global House, and off-campus living."

- Luther College Room Draw

We propose an amendment that would include Co-Ed Baker Village homes in the list of housing options on the Residence Life website under the Room Draw section. Our proposed statement is:

"Phase One of room draw begins at the start of spring term. Guidelines and applications are available on this website for Baker Village (optional co-ed), Prairie Houses, Sustainability House, College Apartments with kitchens, Farwell co-ed eight-single-room cluster, Norby Global House, and off-campus living."

Comparative Schools:

Dictionary of Terms:

Co-Ed Dorm: Males and females are allowed to reside in this type of dormitory.

Co-Ed Floor: Males and females are allowed to reside on the same floor.

Co-Ed Rooms: Males and females are allowed to reside in the same room.

Co-Ed Houses: Males and females are allowed to reside in the same house but not in the same room, unless otherwise specified.

“By Wing”: Males and females are allowed to both reside in the same building, but are separated into different “wings” of a building by gender.

“Gender-Free Living Area”/ “Gender Neutral”: Gender does not factor into living situation in this area; more specifically, these areas are usually inclusive of students who don’t identify with traditional genders.

Augustana: Co-Ed dorms, unsure on floors.

<http://www.augustana.edu/x20808.xml>

Beloit: Co-Ed dorms, floors, and houses.

<http://www.beloit.edu/reslife/information/choosing/>

Carleton: Co-Ed dorms, floors, and rooms.

<https://apps.carleton.edu/student/housing/housing/roomdraw/>

Coe: Co-Ed dorms and houses by wing.

<http://www.coe.edu/campuslife/housing/kohawkvillage>

Colorado College: Co-Ed dorms and floors.

<http://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/residentiallife/housing-facilities-information/traditional-halls/loomis.dot>

Concordia: Co-Ed dorms.

<http://www.cord.edu/Offices/Studentaffairs/Reslife/residencehalls1.php>

Cornell: Co-Ed dorms, floors, and houses.

<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/residence-life/housing/halls/index.shtml>

Grinnell: Co-Ed dorms, floors and rooms.

<http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/reslife/procedures/rescomp>

Gustavus: Co-Ed dorms, looking at Gender Neutral housing.

<https://gustavus.edu/reslife/residences/>

Knox: Co-Ed dorms.

<http://www.knox.edu/offices-and-services/student-development/campus-life-office.html>

Lake Forest: Gender Neutral housing is available in certain dorms by student request. Both interested parties within the room must complete a “roommate agreement” form as well as meet with a “professional Resident Life staff member” to discuss the rooming situation.

<http://www.lakeforest.edu/>

Lawrence: Co-Ed dorms and floors.

http://lawrence.edu/dept/student_dean/reslife/incoming/Res_hall_brochure.pdf

Macalester: Co-Ed dorms and floors for first-years and upperclass students and a Gender-Free living area. The building that houses this “Gender-Free” living area also offers All-Gender restrooms.

<http://www.macalester.edu/reslife/residencehalls/>

<http://www.macalester.edu/reslife/residencehalls/kirk/>

Monmouth: Co-Ed dorms.

<http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/>

Nebraska Wesleyan: Co-Ed dorms; “Townhouse Village” has Co-Ed and Single-Sex Units; Unit of Suites that is Co-Ed, but suites themselves must be single-sex.

<http://www.nebrwesleyan.edu/current-undergraduates/living-campus>

Ripon: Co-Ed dorms and floors.

<http://ripon.edu/>

St. Olaf: Co-Ed dorms. The only current gender neutral housing option is the Gender and Sexuality House. This option is not open to first years and upperclassmen must apply.

<http://www.stolaf.edu/orgs/gsc/transinclusion.html>

Wartburg: Co-Ed dorms and houses.

Implementation:

We propose that the option of Co-Ed Baker Housing be implemented for the 2014-2015 academic year.