

October 5 2020

**HAL STERN**  
**INTERIM PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR**

**RE: Graduate Family Housing (GFH) No Guest Policy Revision**

Recently, graduate students raised concerns about our no guest policy in housing. Their general concerns revolve around childcare, mental health, and relationships. While keeping public health as our highest priority, a committee of campus stakeholders thoroughly reviewed the policy (see attached analysis) and recommended amending the language to allow essential workers. We believe this will alleviate most, but not all of the concerns. Below are the recommended amendments to the corresponding policies:

- Recommended GFH No Guest Policy Revision: No guests are permitted anywhere inside the Graduate and Family campus housing communities unless they are on premises solely to perform an essential function as defined by the State of California essential workforce directive or are minor children/dependents of a Graduate and Family Housing resident and present for the purposes of childcare. Consistent with guidelines from state, local, University, as well as guidance from public health experts, this policy has been adopted to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The no guest policy applies to individuals from within your housing community, other campus housing communities, and outside of the University. It extends to your assigned apartment, common areas, bedrooms, and grounds. Each student resident will be responsible for registering their essential worker with the community's housing office, ensuring their essential worker's compliance with campus directives and policies (including section B.4.b of the Invited Guests/Visitors executive directive of a daily symptom check), and making every effort to have a stable and limited rotation of caregivers. The student resident must also complete the Daily Symptom Check for themselves and their minor children/dependents prior to allowing the minor children/dependents into another unit for purposes of childcare.
- Recommended Undergraduate No Guest Policy Revision: No guests are permitted anywhere in the undergraduate campus housing communities unless they are on premises solely to perform an essential function as defined by the State of California essential workforce directive. Consistent with guidelines from state, local, University, as well as guidance from public health experts, this policy has been adopted to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The no guest policy applies to individuals from within your housing community, other campus housing communities, and outside of the University. It pertains to bedrooms, common areas within the residential buildings, community buildings, and grounds. As such, no guests other than essential workers are permitted in your assigned bedroom at any time. Each student resident will be responsible for registering their essential worker with the community's housing office a, ensuring their essential worker's compliance with campus directives and policies (including section B.4.b of the Invited Guests/Visitors executive directive of a daily symptom check), and making every effort to have a stable and limited rotation of caregivers.
- Gatherings Executive Directive: We will ask CRIT to review the directive and recommend adding in a provision of essential workers to ensure consistency across campus and ACC.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

DocuSigned by:

*Willie Banks*

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Willie L. Banks Jr., Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

Date 10/6/2020

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Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

Approval of recommended changes to the GFH No Guest Policy

DocuSigned by:

*Hal S. Stern*

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Hal Stern,

Interim Provost, Executive Vice Chancellor

Date 10/6/2020

ATTACHMENT

CC: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Division Hayes  
Interim Associate Provost and EVC Leinen  
Chief Campus Counsel Gunn Eaton  
Associate Vice Chancellor Kikuchi  
Executive Director Trevan  
Director Quinan

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## Graduate Family Housing No Guest Policy Review

September 23, 2020

### **Background:**

In response to concerns about the pandemic, Student Housing implemented a Graduate Family Housing (GFH) no guest policy during summer 2020. One of the objectives was to give new and current residents confidence in the safety measures in housing. Some new/existing residents supported the no guest policy because it is comforting and reassuring.

Shortly after communications were sent to students about campus COVID19 policies in mid-September, some concerns surfaced about the restrictive nature of the no guest policy. It is unknown how many complaints were made since GFH students reached out to the Graduate Division. Graduate Division has shared the concerns with the existing policy and they generally fall in the following categories:

- Childcare: students with dependents are unable to use alternative childcare, such as using a family member (not in the household), friends, other residents, or nannies.
- Mental Health: students, especially under-represented minorities, are unable to seek comfort from each other and to come together to do everyday activities (such as cooking and eating).
- Relationships: students who form new connections are unable to be with their partners in their own apartment (even with roommate consent).

### **Current and applicable policies and guidance:**

- [GFH Policy Language](#) (Page 8): No guests are permitted. This includes visiting residents from within your own community and from any other community. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in accordance with state, local and University guidelines in addition to guidance from public health experts, guests are not permitted on Student Housing property which includes within your assigned apartment, common areas, bedrooms, and grounds.
- [Executive Directive - Invited Guests/Visitors](#): Currently does not apply to residents in UCI Student Housing locations
- [Executive Directive - Gatherings](#): Currently applies to all gatherings, events, and meetings involving two (2) or more individuals on UCI controlled property, including student housing areas.
- [California Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education](#) (Page 13): Every effort should be made to decrease risk by restricting building access by non-residents, including outside guests, non-residential staff, and others. These restrictions may not apply to some people, such as personal care attendants for students with disabilities.
- [CDC Considerations for Owners and Operators of Multifamily Housing](#):
  - Residents should be encouraged to limit visitors to persons essential to maintaining their health, well-being, and safety.
  - Visitors should avoid entering the building or community, including common areas and residences, unless their presence is essential to preserving the health, including mental health, well-being, and safety of residents

**University Hills:** Graduate students often compare themselves to faculty and would like to have the freedom that faculty have in University Hills. However, GFH and University Hills are not the same due to:

- University Hills is governed by the Irvine Campus Housing Association (ICHA);
- University policies (such as the [Smoking Policy](#)) and [executive directives](#) are not applicable to University Hills because it is not UCI controlled property;
- Student housing on UC land is owned and operated by the University, or UC has a strong contractual relationship with the operators;
- Students generally do not live in University Hills; and
- Students live in student housing because of their status as a student.

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**Options:**

Action 1: Maintain existing no guest policy

- Pros
  - Consistent with all student housing properties (Undergraduate, Graduate and ACC);
  - Consistent with other UC Campuses;
  - The safest approach from a public health perspective; and
  - Many new/existing residents support the no guest policy (they find it comforting and reassuring).
- Cons
  - Does not address concerns raised by families and graduate students; and
  - Restrictive, does not allow guests on housing grounds nor does it address essential visitors.

Action 2: Stay the course and revisit in Late October

- Pros
  - Allows the university to evaluate current policies based on first few weeks of instruction and COVID19 positivity rates; and
  - Gives us an opportunity to gauge how many and how critical the needs are.
- Cons
  - Does not immediately address concerns raised by families and graduate students; and
  - Restrictive, does not allow guests on housing grounds nor does it address essential visitors.

Action 3: Update policy to include essential workers as defined by [California's Essential Workforce](#) to perform essential function that could not otherwise be done remotely

- Pros
  - Addresses childcare concern; and
  - Consistent with CDC guidelines.
- Cons
  - Potential increase in the exposure to the virus; and
  - Might not be consistent with the state's guidance for Institutions for Higher Education.
- Possible policy revisions: GFH Policy, ACC Policy, Gathering Executive Directive.

Action 4: Update GFH policy to allow guests on the grounds within certain hours and conform to [Gathering's Executive Directive](#) (A.4.) up to state guidelines.

- Pros
  - May address mental health concerns; and
  - Allows guests to have outside gatherings within [Gatherings Executive Directive](#).
- Cons
  - Potential more exposure to the virus and against guidance of CA and CDC;
  - Would conflict with the undergraduate policy (particularly ACC);
  - We have graduates in ACC and could get confusing;
  - May not work for night and or winter months;
  - Potential to have large gatherings in the communities; and
  - May not be kept entirely outdoors, should attendees need restroom access.
- Possible policy revisions: GFH Policy, ACC Policy, and UG Housing Policy.

**Other actions that was discussed, but are not recommended:**

Other 1: Create an Exception Process

- Pros
  - Addresses relationship and mental health concerns.
- Cons
  - Creates an additional administrative workload;

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- Might be hard to make this exception process fair and consistent;
- Would conflict with the undergraduate policy (particularly ACC);
- Potential increase in the exposure to the virus; and
- Against guidance of CA and CDC.
- Possible policy revisions: GFH Policy, ACC Policy, and UG Housing Policy.

Other 2: Create Zot Pods for apartments (GFH and ACC)

- Pros
  - Addresses relationship and mental health concerns.
- Cons
  - Creates an additional administrative workload;
  - Difficult to manage and monitor;
  - Isn't a true 1-to-1 with UG, where the Zot Pod is a static group in which all members have limited contact with anyone outside their pod; and
  - Zot pods in UG communities was made by shared bathrooms.
- Possible policy revisions: GFH Policy, ACC Policy, and UG Housing Policy.

Other 3: Limit guests to 2 at a time approved by all roommates (GFH and ACC)

- Pros
  - Addresses relationship and mental health concerns.
- Cons
  - Creates an additional administrative workload;
  - Would conflict with the undergraduate policy (particularly ACC);
  - Potential increase in the exposure to the virus;
  - Against guidance of CA and CDC; and
  - Difficult to manage and monitor.
- Possible policy revisions: GFH Policy, ACC Policy, and UG Housing Policy.

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