



DARTMOUTH

**A Short History of
Dartmouth
Housing for New
and Old Students**



Photo by Eli Burakian '00

From the Start: 1970s

It was only in 1970 that the Board Of Trustees of Dartmouth College decided that allowing women to enroll on campus would be advantageous for Dartmouth's future. Only 4 other Ivies were co-ed at the time. Yet, Board and alumni alike were reluctant to give a seat to a woman that could've gone to a man; so instead Dartmouth decided to still admit the same amount of men as before Co-Education with an additional 50-100 women for the Fall of 1972. Evidently this would create a significant strain on housing. Effectively, the D-Plan was born, allowing Dartmouth to admit more students than it had physical space for.

Our History

Established in 1769 by Eleazar Wheelock as a school to educate Native Americans, Dartmouth has a long, history. Although Dartmouth College began as an institution for and to assimilate Indigenous students, it later became an institution, mainly, for the wealthy and the elite. The Dartmouth that many of us know and love so ardently today was not so merely 50 years ago; Because 50 years ago was when the first women were allowed to enroll at Dartmouth as full-time students. Through these pages, I will share a short history of undergraduate Housing at Dartmouth. And through this short history, dear reader, you will be able to attest the dramatic changes Dartmouth has undergone; but also it's striking failures.

**A striving university
that embraces
diversity and culture.**

Setting the Scene

Only 50 years prior, women were given the right to vote. And only about 6 years prior did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 pass into law. Times were evidently changing and Dartmouth needed to keep up

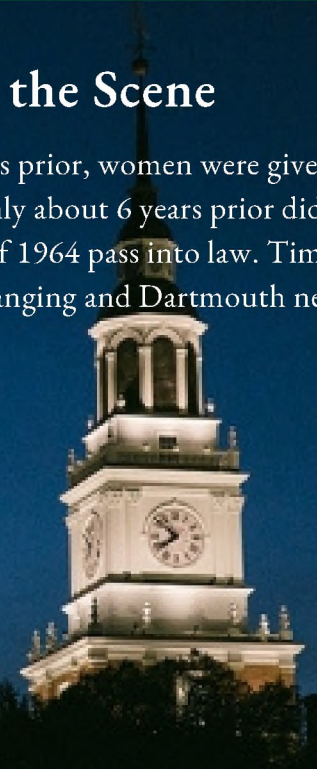


Photo credit: Robert Gill

REACHING STEADY STATE

Dartmouth would find themselves in a constant struggle, both financial and administrative for the first 4 years of Co-Education. Not only did they have to spend additional money to make dorms and bathroom 'women-friendly', but they also had to figure out the logistical and administrative hiccups that inevitably came with co-Education and the implementation of the D-Plan. Once Dartmouth reached Steady State in the Fall of 1976, the majority of the financial and administrative issues were solved or being solved. The 1980s was a time to refine the D-Plan and change in Housing Policy/Rules, in an effort to make housing more equitable and account for the faster turn over rate that a term systems requires. Yet, in the Winter of 1986, forty students are left without housing at the start of the term. Only by compressing other dorms and making study rooms and common room dorms can Dartmouth house all its students.



Photo by Joshua Renaud '17

THE DARTMOUTH

The oldest college newspaper in America • Founded 1799

Vol. CXLIII No. 4

Hanover, N.H., Thursday, January 9, 1986

TWENTY CENTS

Faculty report issued too early

By ANDY LERNER
News Editor

The report the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance gave to the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences was unintentionally released to the press before the faculty was able to look at it.

According to professor Thomas Roos, the chairman of the subcommittee on agenda, the report was to be distributed to the faculty the same day it was issued to the public. However, a problem developed in the distribution process, and there was no way to get the report to the faculty any sooner.

"The only thing I have to apologize for, ultimately, is the slowness of xeroxing," Roos said. The faculty received the report one day later than was originally scheduled.

Some members of the faculty have expressed outrage that the report was publicly released. Professor William Cook, a member of the governance committee, commented that "It was dumb. I don't think it helped. It's not constructive and it interferes with the process."

Cook explained that by allowing the public to examine the report before the faculty had an opportunity to discuss it, the report appears to be a final statement. He compared this situation to one in which a rough draft of a paper is graded instead of the final copy.
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Forty students in need of housing

By JOHN KALISKI
News Editor

Forty students in residence this term are presently without housing on campus, according to director of housing Murray Burk.

This number is reduced from the approximately 110 to 125 students who lacked housing at the beginning of the term, Burk added.

The forty "homeless" students include nine males who applied by the application deadline last term and 31 students, 30 male and one female, who applied after the deadline.

These students are being housed temporarily in study rooms and lounges of several dorms, according to Burk. He refused to reveal the names of the dorms.

However, a source within the Office of Residential Life said that the study room in the basement of South Massachusetts, the first floor lounge of North Mass, and the basement of Butterfield are being used for temporary housing. Visits to these three dorms confirmed this.

Bill Hsieh '88, a student assigned to the Butterfield basement, said that he is one of two students remaining in the room. He said he did not know whether the others found housing or chose to room with friends for the interim.

Hsieh said that he leaves his belongings in the room, which is kept locked at all times, but sleeps in a friend's room.

"It's not that bad," Hsieh said. "Theoretically, I could live here."

"It's a very real problem to the people involved, but it's a small number to us," Burk said, describing the waiting list as "a little longer than usual this term."

The students without housing will be given rooms as va-

cancies turn up, according to Burk. He predicted that most, if not all, will have housing "by sometime next week."

On Dec. 31, when dorms opened for the term, 110 to 125 students listed in residence for the winter term did not have housing, according to Burk. This number has since been reduced to 40 through cancellations and vacancies.

Burk said that housing will be found for the remaining 40 in the same manner. According to ORL policy, housing is assigned first to students in residence who applied on time, then to students in residence who applied late.

Any remaining housing would then go to students on leave for the term who seek on-campus housing. The ORL source of ORL on p.6 inside said it is unlikely that any students on leave would receive housing.

Despite the policy on late applications, housing has been given to some females who applied after the application deadline because of vacancies in single-sex dorms or wings, according to Burk. As a result, only one female, as compared to 39 males, remains without housing.

Burk said that the reason for the housing crunch this term is that "demand for housing relative to the capacity [of the dorms] is greater. We are in a period of high enrollment."

The number of beds on campus has decreased this year

Crises not Avoided: 90s and 2000s

- "In 1994, some 180 students were left without housing for the fall term when a record 3,845 students enrolled for the term.
- "In 2001 due to an unexpectedly high admissions yield for the Class of 2005, the College opted to create six "Tree Houses"
- In 2014, Dartmouth also received a large let than normal request for Fall housing from the CLass of 2018
- A Report on Housing Needs of Dartmouth College by Mary Turco, Dean of Residential Life and Bud Beatty, associate Dean of Residential Life in 1995 recommend more housing
- Report even had 4 different financial plans to build more dorms

Source: *A History of Dartmouth's Housing Crisis* by Andrew Sasser on 10/8/21 from The Dartmouth

Tails from the Times of Plague

As a member of the Class of 2023, my freshman year was cut short by a global pandemic. Even as

Dartmouth was opening its door tentively to students, it could not house all of us safely. For three terms straight, all those who wanted and enrolled to be on-campus could not. Even the

Fall of 2022, campus had an overflow of students: common rooms turned to dorm rooms, long lines for all meal services, and low-income, first-generation and International students struggling to find housing.

- First Generation in College: 15%
- Legacy: 13%
- Foreign Citizen: 13%
- US Citizen, Permanent Resident, Asylee, or Undocumented: 87%
 - Students of Color 44%
 - African American: 11%
 - Asian American: 21%
 - Latino: 12%
 - Native American: 5% (including 33 tribal nations and communities)
 - Two or More Race/Ethnicities Reported: 17%

Profile

- Financial Aid Recipients: 55%
- Pell Eligible: 16%
- Low-Income Households: 24%
- Average Need-Based Grant: \$62,900
- Total Scholarships Offered: \$34.6 million



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Why care about housing?

Dartmouth demographic has changed considerably since pre-1970s. 55% of the Class of 2025 receive financial aid, 44% are students of color, and 15% are the first in their families to go to college in the US. Insufficient housing and inadequate housing policies affect these kind of students the most. Many of them, cannot afford the expensive rent in the Upper Valley. Many low-income international students could not go home during the pandemic, fearful of losing their student visa and being denied entry into the US if they did. What of homeless students? What of students who cannot return to home for whatever reason? Although Dartmouth tries its hardest to be as fair as possible, sometimes fairness and equality ignore the special circumstances of many Dartmouth students. Although half of Dartmouth's endowment are restricted, college has considerable expenses, and Hanover zoning laws are tricky to get around, the College has still known and has endured many housing crisis over the past 20 years alone. Dartmouth has the ability to plan long-term for more housing to ensure that more students can have a roof over their heads, yet choices not to.



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