



## **University of Chicago Undergraduate Student Government**

### **U-TAP Resolution: Universal Tap Access Program**

#### **Sponsors:**

- Nina Hafner, Co-Chair of the Residence Life and Dining Committee (RLDC)
- Ash Arian, Co-Chair of the Residence Life and Dining Committee (RLDC)

#### **Signatories:**

- Evelyn Li, Vice President of Campus Life

WHEREAS Housing and Residence Life at the University of Chicago currently has no restrictions on who can be signed in as a guest in residence halls. There is no distinction in sign-in procedures for University students and outside guests. All guests must be signed in at the front desk and escorted by their host. This establishes an unnecessary barrier to students who currently live in residential communities seeking access to facilities and their peers.

WHEREAS Washington University St. Louis, a university with an acclaimed housing and residence life system allows residential students to visit other dorms without being signed in (<https://students.wustl.edu/residential-life-policies-and-procedures/>).

WHEREAS The University of Pennsylvania, an institution that has a similar College House program similar to our HRL structure, defines visitors as students enrolled in the University who are not living in the residence hall assignment they are visiting. On-campus residents from other buildings can tap themselves into the host building between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 a.m. the next day (<https://residential-services.business-services.upenn.edu/policies>). Additionally, the residence halls in the College Houses allow overnight guests for a period not to exceed three days and two nights during a two-week period.

WHEREAS Duke University, recognized by Campus and Student Life and Housing and Residence Life leadership as a peer institution in many sectors of campus life, allows on-campus students to have overnight guests that do not exceed 3 days. Overnight guests would not be allowed to visit during finals weeks or with on-campus residents who are approved for housing during breaks (<https://students.duke.edu/living/housing/residence-life-policies>). Additionally, they allow on-campus residents to visit other dorms without needing to be checked in from the hours of 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. After these hours, an on-campus resident of the host residence hall would need to check in the on-campus guest resident.

WHEREAS Housing and Residence Life's Associate Membership Program allowed students living off campus to apply for tap access to their old residential communities in order to promote long-term house participation. Housing and Residence Life at the University of Chicago College suspended the Housing Associates program in the Fall of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS The College has eased a number of restrictions and allowed guests back into residence halls in an attempt to return to normalcy. Despite this, Housing and Residence Life at the University of Chicago has again delayed the reinstatement of the program, detrimenting a wide variety of students who moved off campus this year believing they would be able to apply for the program. Additionally, during a time when house culture was deeply fractured by the lack of in-person programming, the lack of this program has prevented fourth-year students who still remember what a normal year looked like from returning to enrich their communities.

BE IT RESOLVED The Housing and Residence Life at the University of Chicago will release a survey polling the demand for a revised visitor policy and the reinstatement of the Associate Membership Program.

- The survey shall be distributed in the form of a QR code on a flyer to be distributed within residence halls and in public spaces on campus.
- The questions on the said survey will be designed by the Residence Life and Dining Committee in collaboration with HRL. The language will be relayed to the College Council for approval.

BE IT RESOLVED The Residence and Dining Life Committee will advocate for Housing and Residence Life at the University of Chicago to reinstate the Associate Membership Program.

- The Residence and Dining Life Committee shall meet with HRL administrators and staff members to explore why the Housing Associates Program was suspended in the first place.
- This meeting will allow us to better understand the concerns of housing and what the best form of a Universal Tap Access Program (U-TAP) would look like for the department and students alike.

BE IT RESOLVED The Residence and Dining Life Committee will advocate for Housing and Residence Life at the University of Chicago College to pursue the establishment of a Universal Tap Access Program (U-TAP) outlined as such:

- On-campus students will be able to access another Residence Hall's space without further need to check in with a host between the hours of 8 am and 11 pm.
  - Allowing students to tap themselves into residence halls will alleviate the current strain being put on public facilities (study rooms, music rooms, etc.) in our residential communities.
  - Additionally, a free flow of residential students will likely increase student satisfaction with housing and allow them to seek support from their peers outside of their houses.
  - By creating a community where all residential facilities are accessible, this measure will break down the notion that some dorms are less desirable than others and create a community culture. This will strengthen ties within our student body and increase incentives to stay within Housing.
- Off-campus students and off-campus guests must still be signed into residential communities.
  - By letting these measures stay in place, it will ease fears surrounding the potential security implications of letting more people into the dorms.

Definitions:

- USG – Undergraduate Student Government at the University of Chicago
- RLDC – Residence Life and Dining Committee at the Undergraduate Student Government
- U-TAP – Universal Tap Access Program proposed resolution by the RLDC
- HRL – Housing and Residence Life at the University of Chicago
- Associate Membership Program – formerly known as the House Associates (HA)

Keywords: Housing and Residence Life, guest policy, overnight visitors, off-campus, Associate Membership Program, resolution, Undergraduate Student Government, College Council, Universal Tap Access.



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