

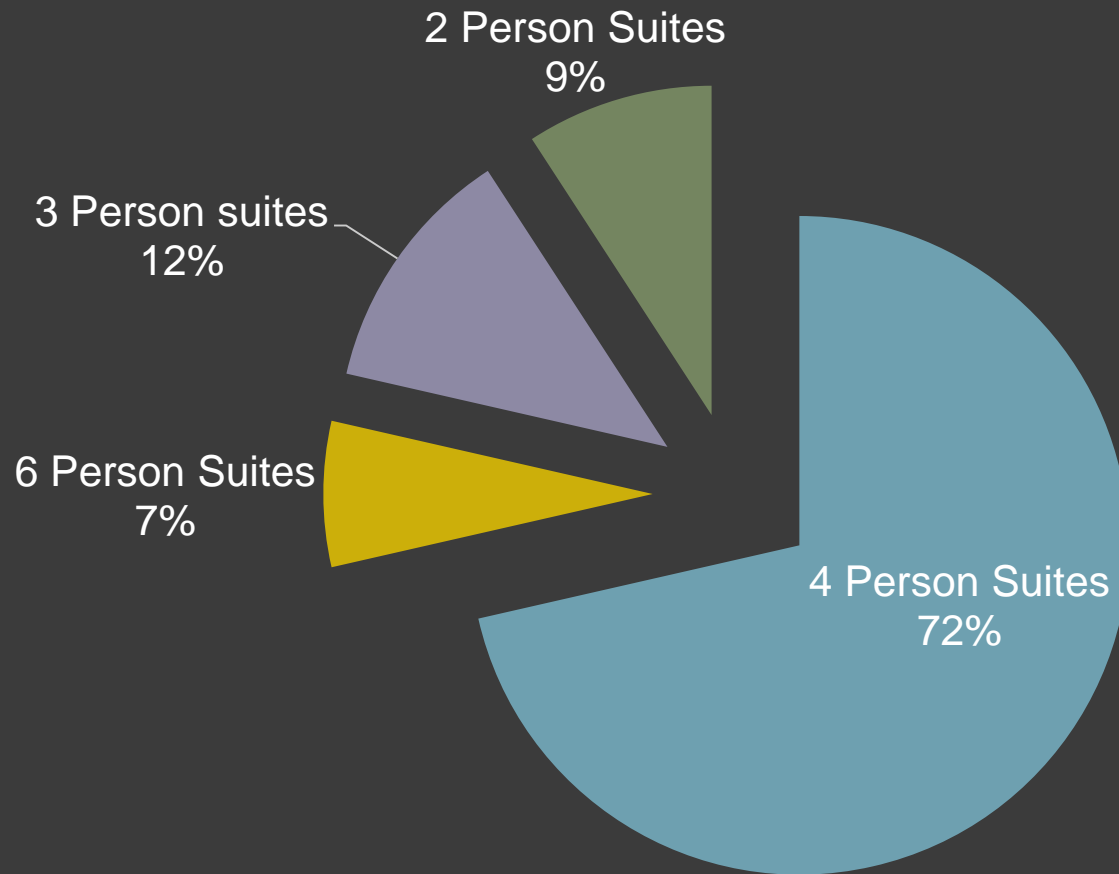
# HOUSING SELECTION 2013

Trends, Best Practices, and This Year's Process

# WHO LIVES IN HOUSING?

- 6000 undergraduate beds on the Fairfax campus
- Returning students have priority for placement in upperclass housing. The majority select their own space.
- Remaining housing is set aside for incoming freshmen, who are placed by staff over the summer.
- Some upperclass students may receive housing via a waitlist over the summer, pending availability.

# AVAILABLE SPACES



# HISTORY

- ◎ Previous Room Assignment Process:
  - 2002
    - ~3000 students on campus,
    - 3 room types
    - majority of on campus population Freshman
  - 2012
    - ~6000 students on campus
    - Over 36 room types
    - ~2/3 of on campus population Upperclass

# HISTORY (PART 2)

- ⦿ Impacts of seniority based system.
  - Most senior students select first
  - Pull in students with less seniority
  - Four year guarantee
- ⦿ Students able to retain space for following year.
- ⦿ Guaranteed Waitlist: 100-500 students:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year freshman
  - Sophomores
- ⦿ System was stressful and allowed students to “game” the system.

# HOUSING TRENDS

- ◎ Higher expectations from incoming residents - sophisticated consumers
  - Abundance of information available
  - Amenities – former luxuries are now considered basic essentials
    - High speed internet, fitness facilities, cafes and lounges
  - Space – if they can't have private space as upperclassmen, they aren't interested
    - Our model places them in housing types based on developmental needs
  - Technology – ease of access to services

# HOUSING TRENDS, CONT'D

- Increasing number of students cite their social lives as an important factor in the university experience
- Desire for control over the experience
  - Why do we let them select their space?
  - Learning outcomes – responsibility for choices
- Mixed-use spaces/Neighborhoods
- Financial implications of the economy

# HOUSING TRENDS, CONT'D

- ◎ Privatization
  - Public/Private partnerships
  - Third-party vendors
- ◎ Increasing number take 5 years to graduate
  - Ties in with desire to move off-campus in later years
  - End of the four-year guarantee



# BEST PRACTICES

- ◎ Each school has a unique situation, so best practices don't always fit
  - Architecture/age of campus buildings
  - On-campus population
  - Surrounding real estate

# THE PROCESS

- Ensures the makeup of the waitlist is consistent with the University retention goals.
- Prioritizes the ability for friends to live with one another.
- Increases the variety of room choices available to all students.
- Improves student satisfaction.

# THE CHANGES...

## ⦿ Group Priority

- Increases ability for students to select with friends or compatible suitemates
- Emphasizes that who you live with impacts your life more than where you live
- Reduces roommate/suitemate conflicts and room change requests

## ⦿ No Room Retention

- Gives a clean slate for selection each year
- Removes the impact of luck from year to year

# THE CHANGES... CONT'D

## ◎ The Waitlist and Seniority

- Improves rising sophomore retention
- Reduces stress and uncertainty
- Older students are more prepared to deal with the ambiguity of being on the waitlist
- Older students are more suited to choosing to live off-campus if they do not want to wait for housing

# OUTCOMES FROM 2012

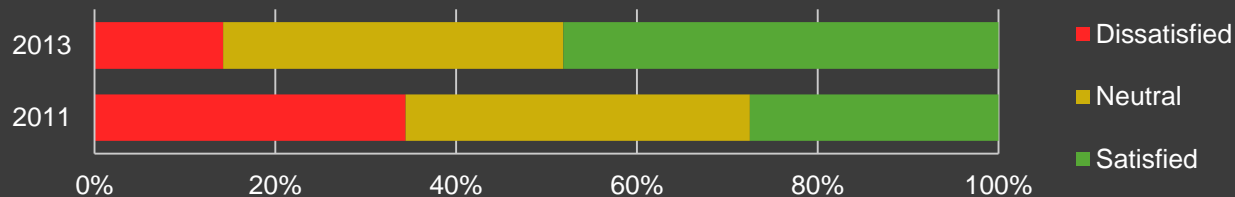
- 4000 applicants. ~3500 in groups, ~500 individuals
- All groups had the opportunity to select together.
  - 100% of the groups of 4 and 6 selected together.
  - Over 90% of the groups of 3 and 2 selected together.
- 166 students were originally waitlisted. Over 40 were brought into individual selection. The final waitlist was ~110 people.

# OUTCOMES FROM 2012

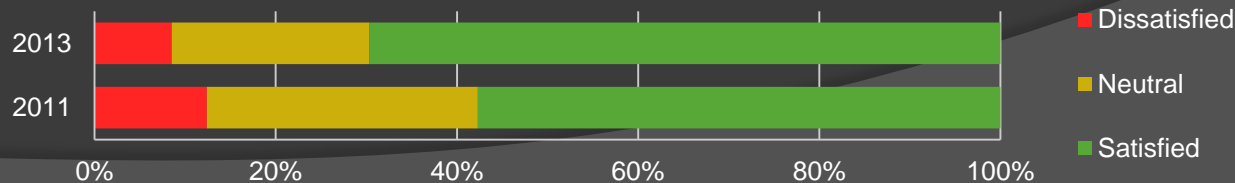
## ● EBI Survey

- Over 20% point increase in students who were satisfied with the process
- 12% point increase in students who were satisfied with their room selection.

**Satisfaction with Housing Selection Process**



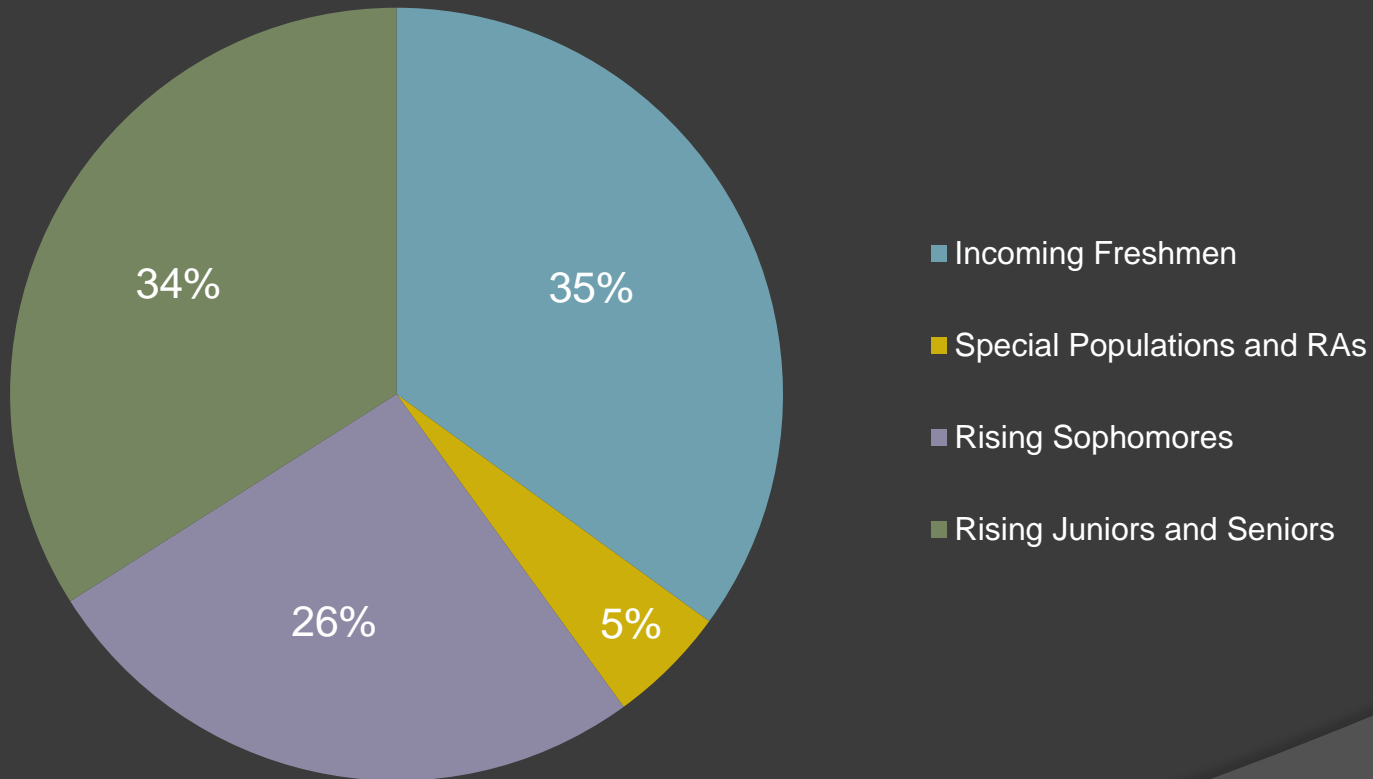
**Satisfaction with Room Assignment**



# THE 2012 WAITLIST

- In 2012, 166 students originally moved to the waitlist. Of these, only ~110 continued to pursue on-campus housing.
- The 2012 cutoff was individuals and groups with 80+ credits.
- All students received housing offers by mid-June.
- Note: 2012 was an anomaly. We opened 600 new beds, which allowed for significant flexibility and a smaller waitlist.

# DISTRIBUTION OF SPACE, BY POPULATION





# ELIGIBILITY

- Spring 2013 should be 6<sup>th</sup> or fewer semester on-campus
- Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup> or greater semester were notified they are not eligible to participate.
- Must be current undergraduate, enrolling full-time for Fall 2013

# SENIORITY

- Based on credits earned at Mason
- What are other ways to determine seniority?
- Average Seniority
- Where will the cutoff be this year?

# THE 2013 WAITLIST

- Anticipate 400-500 person waitlist
- Cannot predict the credit cutoff – depends on who applies.
- Expect most rising seniors and some rising juniors to be on the waitlist.

# THE FOUR-YEAR GUARANTEE

- Is no longer in place
- Grandfathering in the guarantee for current residents
- Why the change?
  - Inconsistent with university enrollment goals
  - No longer a major selling point in Admissions
  - Only university in VA with this guarantee
  - Cannot meet the demand if this remains in place

# STEPS IN THE PROCESS

1. **Form a group** (can be groups of 6,4,3,2, Individual)
2. **Submit applications** - all students do their own application
3. **Research available suites**
4. **Select suite** - group leader selects for all members of group
5. **Pay Deposit** - all students pay their own deposits online

# TIMELINE



- ◎ **February 4-8: Application available.**
- ◎ **Selection for Groups of 4:**
  - February 20-22: Selection
  - February 25: Deposit due
- ◎ **Selection for Groups of 6, 3, 2:**
  - February 26-28: Selection
  - March 4: Deposit due
- ◎ **Selection for Individuals:**
  - March 21-22: Selection
  - March 27: Deposit due
- ◎ **Waitlist**
  - April 15: Application and Deposit
- ◎ **May 2: Open Application for Waitlist**

# LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- LLC application Dec 10-Jan 25
- LLCs will notify members by Jan 29.
- Student must accept LLC and pay deposit by February 1.
- Students in LLCs will be placed in their sections by LLC coordinator.
  - They will not participate in Housing Selection.
- The intent is to prevent gaming the system for different outcomes.

# MISSED SELECTION?



- May apply for housing on the waitlist, available in May.
- Waitlist applicants will submit their deposit at the time they apply.



# COMMUNICATION

- ⦿ Postcard home
- ⦿ Emails to students
- ⦿ Information Sessions
  - January 23 - February 6
- ⦿ Office Hours
- ⦿ Parent Webinar
  - January 23
- ⦿ Broadside Ads, MasonAds (TV)
- ⦿ Posters, Sticky-note reminders on doors
- ⦿ T-Shirt Tuesdays

# GROUP ACTIVITY

- ◎ Answer the following questions:
  - How does this process effect your population?
  - What concerns does your office or constituency have with the process?
  - How can your office support this initiative?
  - Is there anything else the OHRL can do to assist you with communication?

# WHERE TO FIND HELP



- Website: [housing.gmu.edu/selection](http://housing.gmu.edu/selection)
- Information Sessions January 23-February 6
- Office Hours with HSCs & Assistant Director
  - Thursdays 2pm-5pm, Jan 24, Jan 31, Feb 7
- Email: [housing@gmu.edu](mailto:housing@gmu.edu)
- Parent Webinar January 22
- Join the Facebook “Mason Housing Selection Roommate/Suitemate Finder” Group
- Attend a Roommate/Suitemate Social
  - Jan 28, Jan 30, Feb 5 830pm The Ridge
- Tours
  - Jan 30, Feb 7 6pm-9pm