

*Chiu - (Bois)
please respond*

Chiu Kit-mui
2302, University Ave.
235
Madison, WI 53705

Director, Norm Sunstad
Division of University Housing
625 Babcock Drive
Madison WI 53706

April 18, 1990

To whom it may concern,

We have applied for an apartment for handicapped person in Eagle Heights since September 15, 1989. Since then, we have asked the Housing Office several times, and always received a response that we had to wait as other people do. However, it is our understanding that there are two apartments designed for handicapped people available. We would like to know whether we have priority to these apartments. If we do have this priority, we would like to move into this apartment by August 10, 1990.

Should you need any information, please don't hesitate to write us.

Please respond at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Kit mui Chiu
Chiu, Kit-mui
Lin, Din-llii

cc: Student Tenant Union

sent 4/25/90



Division of University Housing
 Slichter Hall
 625 Babcock Drive
 Madison, WI 53706

1 Year	Destroy
	Review
5 Year	Destroy
	Review
Permanent	
Follow-up	

April 24, 1990

Kit-mui Chiu
 Din-llii Lin
 2302 University Avenue #235
 Madison, WI 53705

Dear Kit-mui Chiu and Din-llii Lin:

I have reviewed your letter of April 18, 1990 to Norm Sunstad requesting priority for an apartment in Eagle Heights due to the handicapped status of one of your family members.

The policy for assignment priority for student family housing is based on date of application with additional priority given to Wisconsin residents who apply by March 15. As out-of-state residents, you have a lower priority than Wisconsin residents and, thus, may have a longer wait for receiving an apartment in Eagle Heights.

You are correct that we have apartments designed to accommodate persons with disabilities, and we would be happy to arrange for you to be assigned to one of these at the time you are offered an apartment.

I cannot guarantee you will receive an apartment by August 1990 as you request, especially since we will be honoring priority for Wisconsin residents beginning July 1. I encourage you to remain on the waiting list, and we will contact you as soon as something is available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Alice P. Gustafson'.

Alice P. Gustafson
 Assistant Director-Administration

xc: Norm Sunstad
 Assignment Office

AG/mbw
 0312C/56



Office of the Dean of Students

McBurney Disability Resource Center

905 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53715
608/263-2741 (Voice) 608/263-6393 (V/TDD)

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Alice P. Gustafson, Assistant Director
FROM: Trey Duffy, Director
DATE: 14 June 1990
SUBJECT: Din-llii Lin

Din-llii Lin is a student with a disability who will enroll in the university as a graduate student in the fall. He has requested consideration for accessible graduate family housing.

Your letter of April 24, 1990 to Mr. Lin explained that he must wait until after Wisconsin residents have been considered, and should he be offered an apartment he could be assigned to an accessible unit.

The purpose of this letter is to ask that you include disability as a consideration in making housing assignments and that Mr. Lin's request be prioritized.

I offer the following rationale:

1. Having a disability limits one or more major life activities. Mr. Lin, who has a below the knee amputation of the right leg, has several major life activities limited. It is absolutely appropriate for the university to prioritize Mr. Lin's need for accessible housing due to his disability.
2. One reason to prioritize students with disabilities relates to the lack of housing options available to people needing accessible living environments. Most students can choose from any available housing in the community, Mr. Lin can not. Clearly, there are many constituencies of students having unique and unusual circumstances that may be categorized as "special needs". However, can you identify any group, other than people with disabilities, that have access to less than 5% of available housing within the Madison community? If yes, who? If no, why then would we hesitate to prioritize the needs of students with disabilities?
3. As a university we have an expressed commitment to diversity. Addressing the needs of people with disabilities is a goal of the university. Providing accessible housing is necessary to recruit, retain and graduate qualified students with disabilities.

Page Two:

4. In undergraduate housing, it is my understanding that athletes who are non-residents have been given priority status. It would appear the ability to prioritize one group's needs exists, should those needs be recognized.

5. I recognize University Housing's position that with so many demands for graduate family housing you prefer to avoid preferential treatment. However, throughout the campus we can identify numerous examples of the university giving priority status to students with disabilities: priority registration, preferred parking, alternative testing and an array of other basic services. The reason for giving priority status is that a disability affects major life activities: walking, eating, breathing, seeing, etc. Therefore, life becomes more complicated and difficult. Getting from point A to point B for a wheelchair-user is a different experience than it is for you or I. Using a restroom can become an impossibility. Recognizing the daily difficulties encountered by people with disabilities, not just with living arrangements but with transportation, eating, working, etc., the university has determined that efforts reducing unnecessary complications is appropriate.

6. Federal standards for accessible university housing state that housing is to be provided that is "comparable, convenient and accessible" and at the "same cost as to others." Federal regulations also state that 5% of housing should be accessible. I understand that Eagle Heights has over 1,000 units, therefore, at least 50 units should be accessible. I also understand that only two units at Eagle Heights are accessible. It would seem reasonable that given that we are far below the desired amount of accessible units we would be willing to accommodate this single request from Mr. Lin.

I recognize that University Housing has policies and procedures, as well as many more requests for housing than there are units available.

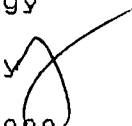


Office of the Dean of Students

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905 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53715
608/263-2741 (Voice) 608/263-6393 (V/TDD)

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: JoAnne Nagy
FROM: Trey Duffy 
DATE: 14 June 1990
SUBJECT: Graduate Family Housing

JoAnne, that was very rude of you to interrupt me while I was walking around composing a letter to you in my head. It ruined my train of thought. (I guess it was actually more rude of me not to recognize you, but then I'm more familiar with your voice than your face.)

I've decided to cut the letter short and just copy you on the attached letter to University Housing. Basically, the issue is that they will not consider disability in assigning housing. I'd like them to. There's a lot more to it, perhaps we can sit down and talk about it. I understand that the Graduate School would need to be involved in any recommendations that a disability be a consideration in assigning graduate housing so I wanted to pick your brain a bit on the subject.

Currently, there is not one identified person with a disability living in Eagle Heights. I think asking that Mr. Lin be allowed to occupy one of the two accessible units is not a radical request. Housing is firm in their refusal to give Mr. Lin any additional consideration because he is not resident and residents have priority.

I'm going to be on vacation from June 22 - July 13. Perhaps, after that we could chat a bit about this???



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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Din-llii Lin
FROM: Trey Duffy
DATE: 16 June 1990
SUBJECT: Accessible Housing

I regret to inform you I have been unsuccessful in my request to University Housing to assign you an accessible apartment at Eagle Heights.

I have spoken with Deborah McNish and Paul Dean Webb at Eastern Michigan University, Seema Kapani of the International Students Office, Laura Schere, Eagle Heights, and Alice Gustafson, Associate Director, University Housing, all of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

I have advocated vigorously on your behalf and firmly believe that University Housing should honor your request. I am, however, unable to convince the Housing officials of prioritizing the needs of persons with disabilities.

I do not have the authority to require them to accommodate you. You might, however, wish to pursue your request through the Graduate School, International Students Office, or your academic department. Sometimes, if several departments within the university advocate on behalf of a student there is a better chance of success. You may also want to follow up with the Student Tennant Union for support.

Within the Madison area you might consider Regent Tower, Laciell, or Capitol Center as possible living facilities. All three have accessible units and summer is an excellent time to prepare a lease. I am enclosing an application for a disabled parking permit for Fall 1990. Our center has a Scholarship program in which we disburse several thousand dollars each spring semester. Applications will be available during the spring of the next year. Announcements will appear in Spectrum, our newsletter which you will receive. Additionally, we have a resource book in our center's library on scholarship and grant opportunities for people with disabilities.

Again, I truly regret not being able to arrange accessible university housing for you. I am ashamed and embarrassed.

TD:hous_ln2

Division of University Housing
Slichter Hall
625 Babcock Drive
Madison, WI 53706

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trey Duffy
FROM: Alice Gustafson *Alice*
SUBJECT: Request for Priority Assignment for Mr. Din-llii Lin
DATE: June 26, 1990

Your memo of June 14, 1990 summarizes the comments you shared with me in our phone conversation of June 12, 1990. However, even after another review of Mr. Lin's situation and your comments, I am reaffirming my decision to retain Mr. Lin's place on the waiting list for an apartment in Eagle Heights this fall.

My decision is not based on any lack of empathy or understanding for Mr. Lin's position. It is simply appropriate that we continue to administer our assignment system for student family housing by date of application such that all students on the waiting list know they are being treated equitably. A system riddled by exceptions is actually no system at all, and students would have a right to challenge us if we administered in this way. 1

I am concerned about your statement that students with disabilities lack housing options in the Madison community while people without disabilities have almost unlimited options in the private sector. When I talked with you on June 12, you stated to me that your statistics were not based on any research, but were instead based on conversations you had with students in your office.

I asked my staff to research this question and they were able to put together a list of housing resources in the Madison area for people with disabilities. I've attached a copy to this memo, thinking it may be helpful to your office in advising students about housing. Perhaps your office or the Campus Assistance Center would like to expand this list and maintain it as part of a resource file on off-campus housing. 2

Many of the apartment managers we contacted said they have accessible space and currently have tenants who are in wheelchairs. In every case, the managers were positive, helpful and easy to talk with on this topic. Some of them have special programs to secure HUD funds for low-income individuals such as students. A few of these managers indicated that they still had space available for the fall, and that they are experiencing low demand for accessible apartments at this time.

In addition, we contacted Mike Greco with DVR. He recommended Access to Independent Living as a resource for information on apartment modification. Mr. Greco also said that students would be able to call DVR for financial assistance for rent.

I recognize your concern that while accessible apartments may be available, they are more expensive than the students with disabilities can afford. I would like to reiterate my point that the question then is not one of accessibility, but one of finances, which is the most frequent issue we hear from all of our applicants and tenants at Eagle Heights. When the housing issue is a financial one, it means that a student with a disability no longer has an issue of any greater urgency than any of the other students on our waiting list, and this seems to reinforce the position that we should not give priority on the waiting list solely on the basis of a physical disability. 3

Allow me to re-emphasize one other point I made in our conversation last week. Unlike other parts of the University which can expand resources to meet the needs of individual students who may have disabilities or other special needs, University Housing has always functioned with limited resources. We have a maximum number of apartments to rent at any given time.

By offering one person priority, we are denying housing to someone else on the list who would have been eligible according to our assignment policy. We feel a great obligation to respect people who believe our system does work on the basis of date of application. And unfortunately, we are unable to expand our resources to meet every need which surfaces. While we're sympathetic to the needs of disabled students, we're also sympathetic to the needs of all of our other students. 4

I can assure you that the staff of University Housing has a strong commitment to assist students with disabilities. We have modified facilities for individual needs, often at great expense. We have accommodated each disabled student at the top of our waiting list at family housing. Your comment that you are beginning to believe Housing discriminates against disabled individuals, intentionally or unintentionally, is undeserved.

I hope that Mr. Din-llii Lin has success in securing housing for the fall. He can be assured that as soon as his name comes to the top of the waiting list, we will place him in one of the handicapped-accessible apartments at Eagle Heights. Until that time, I hope you will work with him in the private community, perhaps even with the materials attached to this memo, to help him find comfortable living accommodations, so he can begin his work here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

xc: Norm Sunstad
Mary Rouse
Joanne Nagy

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