

To

Barb Remsburg, Executive Director of Housing & Residential Education,
Lori McDonald, Vice President of Student Affairs,
and whomever else it may concern:

Amidst the global pandemic, many things have changed. While we agree that HRE has made efforts to protect the safety and security of our residents, we believe that RA's and SJA's, in particular, have been put into very vulnerable positions. Despite the exposure that many of us have had to hundreds of students, we have not readily been provided adequate PPE, we are not being provided another COVID-19 test, and we are not being told the case counts on campus. We feel that the way we are currently being treated by administration is unacceptable and jeopardizing our safety. We feel that we deserve to know, in writing, that we will have housing security, proper protective gear and sanitation supplies, the ability to opt-out of doing things which make us feel unsafe... etc.
We deserve empathy.

We do not feel safe doing the work that we are being told to do currently. We need transparency, we need PPE, we need our concerns to be listened to, we need communication, we need not be overburdened and under-supported, we need security... We have created a list of demands that we expect to be met to ensure our safety and security as student leaders. Our statements and demands are attached to this email. We expect for a meeting to be scheduled in the next 5 days to meet our demands; if our needs remain unacknowledged and unmet, we are prepared to take further action.

We have agreed as a group of nearly 50 housing student leaders (as of midnight, August 23) from every residential community to not speak to the media at this time and do not condone any housing SL that has. We are committed to a good-faith conversation and want to grant administration adequate time to prepare and respond.

We request and expect a response from either Barb Remsburg or Lori McDonald within the next 5 days to schedule a meeting to discuss our demands. We will only accept a response to this email from one of the above-listed parties.

Give us empathy.

Concerned U of U RA's and SJA's

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH RESIDENTIAL STAFF

FALL 2020 DEMANDS



#GiveUsEmpathy

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



RA's are an integral part of the University of Utah's reopening plan. We need transparency, we need PPE, we need our concerns to be listened to, we need communication, we need not be overburdened, we need security...

We need empathy.

Reach out to us at UtahRAsandSJAs@gmail.com

#GiveUsEmpathy

OUR DEMANDS

- Frequent testing provided for all student leaders
 - SL's should be tested once move-in concludes
- Hazard pay for student leaders who have tested positive for COVID-19
- Breakdown of COVID-19 testing on campus reported daily
- More PPE provided for student leaders
 - This includes...
 - Gloves in every duty bag
 - Face shields
 - Sanitation supplies for every student leader
- Guarantee that resident directors and graduate assistants will not be overburdened with additional work as a result of our demands
- Direct regular communication with administration about COVID-19 related updates before they are sent out to the public

#GiveUsEmpathy

OUR DEMANDS (CONT.)

- Rescind the requirement for SL's to attend "Promote and Go's" in person
- Evaluate and maintain the contractual 20 hour work week commitment for SL's
- Written statement saying that there will be no retaliation against SL's due to actions regarding their safety during COVID-19
- Full transparency of the contractual requirement "duties as assigned" in relation to COVID-19 duties
 - The entire HRE staff should be given the ability to opt out of doing meal delivery for COVID-19 positive residents if concerned for their safety
- Written support of housing security for student leaders in the event that campus shuts down

#GiveUsEmpathy

"EMPATHY"

We agree with the Cornell RA's when they said that we need empathy. "This is telling of the stress and burden inflicted on RA's by a lack of communication and transparency from our administration. You want grace? Give us empathy."

#GiveUsEmpathy

TO THE DECISION MAKERS

Barb Remsburg & Lori McDonald

We were promised transparency, but received ambiguity during a time where clarity can be live-saving. Your poor planning is jeopardizing our safety. We have not been provided adequate PPE, training, respect, support, or empathy- all while being overworked and under-supported. We demand our concerns be listened to and addressed.

#GiveUsEmpathy



WE SIGN IN POWER AND SOLIDARITY

TNC, XYZ, AOK, XYZ, AP, PM, XYZ, MK,
XYZ, EK, XYZ, MB, XYZ, CR, MW, XYZ, KS,
XYZ, AS, PR, JW, JC, XYZ, DL, XYZ, NL, MM,
XYZ, LZ, XYZ, XYZ, SD, XYZ, XYZ, XYZ

And others too afraid to speak on record for fear of retribution from HRE. RA's and SJA's have elected to sign this document with initials in lieu of signature. "XYZ" denotes a participant too afraid to initial.

#GiveUsEmpathy

CALL TO ACTION

We the RA's & SJA's at the University of Utah...

Insist that a meeting be scheduled by Lori McDonald or Barb Remsburg within the next 5 days to meet our demands; if our needs remain unacknowledged and unmet, we are prepared to take further action. We feel our demands are crucial for not only our health and safety, but the health and safety of our communities as well.

#GiveUsEmpathy