



Quality of Life Sub-Committee Report

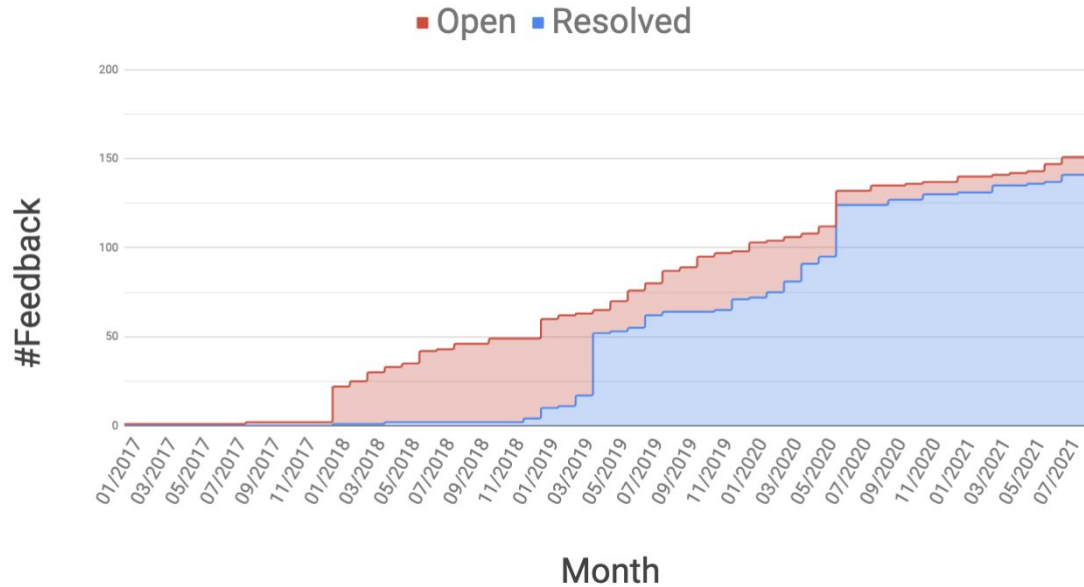
July 16, 2021

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Feedback Overview

Five feedback items received since last month.

UEC Feedback

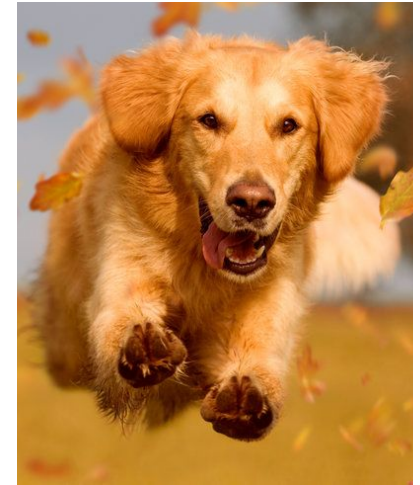


(*) Includes items we don't publish

Open

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COUNT of Comment #	Responsible		
	QoL	QoL & Fermilab Operations	Grand Total
Fermilab Operations		1	1
QoL	6		6
Grand Total	6	1	7



New feedback items -- Rent increase in the village

- I am very surprised to see that recently the housing rent got hiked by 17%. As a student, I can only afford the dorm room here. I am living at the dorm room currently. It is very hard for us to rent a outside apartment. As a federal lab, it is very unfortunate and unfair to set the room rent as compared to market value. We are staying at the Fermilab housing because it is cheaper than the market and we as a student can afford it. Taking as a fact that market value raising, housing can increase their rent step-by-step with little amounts instead of whole lots of 17%.
- Hello I am writing to seek your involvement in hiking the housing rent matters. Since, most of the residents in village are phd or summer students so it would be really too much if the rent increases by 17%. We don't have many facilities inside the village-like there is no laundry in most of the dorms, there is no water machine, rooms need paint and renovation, no one cleans the carpet fully, and on top of that they are increasing rents. It's a government property and its not understandable why housing people involve private company to get the rate estimate. All the furniture in all dorms and houses are old, nothing new has happened so why there is an increase in rent? Please step into this matter and help us.
- Feedback: The FNAL housing office has increased the rent by 17% at once. This is not acceptable as they are not adding any extra facilities. 5% increase is understandable but 17% is too much. It would be great if UEC considers talking to the housing office and come up with a more reasonable rate.
- Hey, I am Atanu Pathak, I am living at the Dorm 4. I am very concern to know from housing office that my rent at dorm room will increase 30%. I am not getting any reasons or justifications for this announcement at this challenging time. Since housing are not implementing any new amenities (free washing/drying etc) for the dorm room, that's why it is very unfair to hike the rent a lot like 30%. Any small increments between 5-10% is manageable. The reason of market value agreement is very unfortunate, because federal lab don't want to make any profit from us. Please let us know your concern about this matter and how we proceed if we want to make any disagreement petition.
- The FNAL housing office has increased the rent by 17% at once. This is not acceptable as they are not adding any extra facilities. 5% increase is understandable but 17% is too much. It would be great if UEC considers talking to the housing office and come up with a more reasonable rate.

New feedback items -- Rent increase in the village

- Discussed during the QoL meeting with Jeanne
 - Rent increase happened due to the study based on current market rates and also will be used for the housing maintenance that is needed to be done.
 - 17% increase is not for all. Some people will have less than 17% rent increase, some might not have any increase at all.
 - Dorm rents mostly got increased since they are definitely under market value
 - Give a call to the housing office if you aren't sure about the new prices of your housing
 - We also discussed to look for additional fundings maybe from an individual experiments to help support their students housing needs.

New feedback item -- Village access restrictions

- My wife and I have been living in a house in the village since October. I've been working at my home institution (overseas) for the last couple of months and my wife traveled with me - we notified the housing office, and they removed us from the occupancy list and site access list. So far so good. Last week she notified the housing office that she would be returning. The response was:

- * we are off the occupancy list and the village is under occupancy limitations, so we would need to submit a new housing request

- * the summer housing period is coming up, so the earliest we could request to return is August 1 (and not guaranteed)

- * she doesn't need to be onsite if I'm not onsite, so she would not be approved to return onsite without me

This was all completely unexpected, and very disruptive given that we have no other home in the US and all of our belongings are in the village. My wife asked if she could come onsite for an hour, escorted if necessary, just to retrieve our car, medications, etc. but no luck. So she is staying in an offsite hotel. My coworkers were able to bring the car and essentials out to her. I will be back at the lab in a week; I guess I will stay at the hotel but at least I will have site access as an essential worker. We have a housing request on file for August 1, we don't yet know if it will be approved. This is inconvenient but not an emergency. We understand that there are good reasons underlying these policies, but they are not being communicated or applied in a reasonable way. At a minimum we should be allowed access to our stuff, if only to move out and free up the house for other residents. I am told that there are other people in a similar situation (unable to return to village housing, possessions stuck in the village). My Fermilab supervisor has raised the issue with division management but without success. We are hoping that the UEC can advocate for us.

- Forwarded it to the housing office

Open feedback

- Country of birth question on the Fermilab meetings registration pages
- A meeting took place between the submitter, ESH&Q contact, Foreign visit officer, and Fermilab leadership.
 - Users Meeting restoration still asking for this information.
 - From Kate Gregory:
 - The wording we expect to begin using the following new wording in registrant questionnaires beginning in late July:
 - “Please identify if you were born in, are currently a citizen of, or are otherwise affiliated with a State Sponsor of Terrorism as identified by the U.S. Department of State (see <https://www.state.gov/state-sponsors-of-terrorism/>).”
 - The new wording will be implemented soon. Current Users meeting page might have been created a month ago or so therefore it uses the old wording.
 - Ashley sent email to Katherine about asking the possibility to add a note/banner in the indicio that the wording of this question will be modified.
 - Kate recommended posting the guidance at an appropriate site instead.



Open feedback items on Hold

- Housing rental agreement for users to get driver's licence.
 - Housing office come up with a new draft contract and are in the process of finalizing that.
 - Included in contract change, should be finalized/implemented (?) on August 1st

Users Meeting

QoL is tasked to contribute to the “spotlight on the community” session.

- Started in 2019 -- a time for us to learn more about the people working within the broad Fermilab community (not just in science).
- Last year’s panel: Borchert, Killebrew, Norrick, Pfaff, Saviano.
- From Ashley: This year in particular we were thinking of focusing on people involved in the covid response (keeping everyone safe) and lab reopening plans/phases.
- [2019 video recording](#). [2020 video recording](#).
- planning to reach out to Security, Facility, Users office, village etc.



Meeting Minutes

- The UEC quality of life has received five new feedbacks during the past month, and are working on seven feedback items in total.
- Four new feedbacks are regarding the concerns related to the recent village housing rent increase. People have confusions and dissatisfactions regarding the situation. The other feedback was related to the village access restriction and the retrieval of belongings from the village which is not being approved for a returning village resident.
- The feedback regarding the country of birth question is still open. The Users meeting registration page does not currently uses the modified wording and we are discussing the possibilities of adding a note/banner on the meeting page.
- The other open feedback is related to the updated housing agreement for users to get drivers license. This is in the modified contract and will be implemented on August 1st.
- QoL is tasked to contribute to the “spotlight on the community” session at the Users meeting 2021.