



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Erin Hoffmann Harding
Vice President for Student Affairs

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June 17, 2014

Dear University Village and Cripe Street residents,

Through a facilities assessment, we are aware that University Village, Cripe Street Apartments, and the O'Hara-Grace Townhouses are approaching the end of their useful lives. Knowing this, I convened a group of University administrators who serve Notre Dame's post-baccalaureate population to examine the needs of these students as they relate to housing. I asked this group to approach this question with consideration of our University's Catholic mission and our desire to build community among post-baccalaureate students. The process included discussions with graduate and professional students, examination of their feedback regarding housing experiences and the preferences they expressed about housing on and off campus, and gathering of best practices from peers.

The group's work affirmed that the University has increased its commitment to the success and well-being of its post-baccalaureate students. The Division of Student Affairs continues to grow the services related to health and wellness, career services and professional development, student development and campus ministry offered for graduate students and their families. This includes support for the Graduate Student Life office, formed in 2012, which aims to enhance the educational experience of and quality of life for Notre Dame graduate students. Its programming and communication vehicles have been very well received by our students. Because only 16 percent of graduate students live on campus, the University has also committed to expanding the referral services we offer to students that assist them in obtaining safe, affordable, and convenient housing. The Overlook, a Notre Dame-related property, has created a new housing option that caters specifically to graduate students, and we are open to expanding this model for future developments. New information provided by our students has revealed that married and parenting students comprise a much larger proportion of our graduate population than we are currently able to house, and they are interested in additional services from the University. As a result, the University is currently seeking benefaction for a Family Resource Center to provide support and connection to all married and parenting students. I am excited about the opportunities that these strategies will offer to enhance the experience of our graduate and professional students, no matter where they choose to live.

As part of this review process, and in light of our aspiration to serve all post-baccalaureate students with increased services, I would like to also make you aware that the University will modify its approach to on-campus, post-baccalaureate residential facilities. We will close University Village, Cripe Street Apartments, and the O'Hara-Grace Townhouses for student housing at the end of the Spring 2018 semester. At that time, we plan to broaden the population that is served at Fischer Graduate Residences. This announcement is being made four years in advance to allow current and incoming graduate and professional students to plan



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appropriately. We intend to staff, occupy and maintain these facilities through the 2017-2018 academic year. In the summer of 2018, married and parenting students will be welcomed to live in designated sections of Fischer Graduate Residences. All students currently residing in the facilities set to close for housing, along with those who have already entered into a lease agreement for the 2014-15 academic year, will be offered grandfathered lease rates in Fischer Graduate Residences in the summer of 2018.

I will host an information session for residents, including an opportunity for you to ask questions, open to all current residents of University Village and Cripe Street Apartments, on Wednesday, June 18 at 6:15 p.m. in the Beichner Community Center. Should you have questions regarding this information, I look forward to addressing them at that time. I also look forward to working with Nathan Elliot and the University Village community to seek appropriate ways to recognize and archive the rich history of University Village.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Hoffmann Harding".

Erin Hoffmann Harding

Vice President of Student Affairs