



Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

## RHA approves next year's non-mandatory fees for Dining Services, Resident Life



**DECEMBER 3, 2024** - The Maryland Residence Hall Association (RHA) voted to approve the non-mandatory fee proposed by the Department of Dining Services and the non-mandatory fee proposed by the Departments of Resident Life and Residential Facilities for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Resolution LS001F**, A Resolution Approving the Non-Mandatory Fee Proposed by the Department of Dining Services for Fiscal Year 2026, passed 19-6-1. It passed with an amendment (18-6-1) to Clause 4 where "proposed a rate increase of 7.59%" changed to "proposed a rate increase of 9.33%."

"This amendment came after great deliberation from RHA senators," said Nicole Barnes, Senator-At-Large. "While any fee increase is unfortunate, this decision makes it so that dining services is able to continue to operate at its fullest capacity and reduces the likelihood of more drastic fee increase proposals in the future."

**Resolution MA0001E**, A Resolution Approving the Non-Mandatory Fee Proposed by the Departments of Resident Life and Residential Facilities for Fiscal Year 2026, passed 22-0-1.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

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Hello Terps!

Wow! Can you believe that we are already at the end of the semester? I sure can't! I am so proud of all the hard work that our hall councils and Senate have put in this semester. I can honestly say that in my three years at UMD and in RHA, this is the most active I've seen our councils be! From bustling events filled with friendship bracelets and Build-a-Bears (don't feel left out if you didn't get one like me, they ran out in seconds!), to competitive bingo nights to laid-back "Crafts & Chill" events, you guys really brought your communities together and helped fulfill RHA's mission of fostering connections and making our not-so-little campus feel like home.



We still have things on the horizon before the year is over: look out for us tabling in front of McKeldin Library during Finals week where we will be collecting good food donations as Testudo offerings as well as handing out lollipops with notes of encouragement (in partnership with our National Residence Hall Honorary UMD chapter). We also will be conducting our annual Dining Dollar Donation Drive this Thursday and Friday, so definitely sign up to help or donate just one dining dollar for a good cause!

Finally, I hope you all take many moments throughout the next few weeks to be still and take care of yourself and those around you when you can. You all are the most capable students in the world, and I know that we are going to end this semester off with a bang! Good luck with finals, and if I don't see you before we head home for the year, have a wonderful, restful, fun and heartwarming winter break filled with love and LOADS of free time!! See you in the new year, Terps!

- Michelle Ameyaw, RHA Vice President

# Join us in the spring semester!

FIND YOUR PLACE WITH RHA! Do you know a friend or floor mate who might be interested in joining RHA for the spring 2025 semester? We have open positions available and council roles are still up for grabs! Click below to check out the vacancies in your hall council! For more information, email the resident director listed for your hall council.

We also have openings on the Executive Team! If you have any questions about joining or the positional duties of any role, please email [marylandrha@umd.edu](mailto:marylandrha@umd.edu).

- **Dining Services Coordinator (DSAB)** - [apply here!](#)
- **Transportation Coordinator (TAC)** - [apply here!](#)
- **Senator-At-Large** - email [marylandrha@umd.edu](mailto:marylandrha@umd.edu)!
- **Mental Health Ad-Hoc Committee** - email [marylandrha@umd.edu](mailto:marylandrha@umd.edu)!

**JOIN FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER!**

## WANT TO JOIN NRHH?

Leadership ♦ Service ♦ Recognition

Apply now at  
[go.umd.edu/nrhh](https://go.umd.edu/nrhh)



Are you passionate about leadership? Service? Or recognition? Join the Jim Henson Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary at UMD! As a 'sister organization' of RHA, NRHH strives to give back to the campus community and help to maximize the residential experience.

The deadline for applications for the spring semester just opened! To learn more information or apply today, [click here](#). Any questions should be directed to NRHH Jim Henson Chapter president Erika Holdren ([eholdren@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:eholdren@terpmail.umd.edu)).

## Senate Summary (11/12/24)

- **Agenda**
- **APPROVED:** 11/13 Meeting Minutes
- **SPECIAL ORDER:** Fiscal Year 2026 Dining Fee Proposal Presentation (Chris Moore)
- **SPECIAL ORDER:** Fiscal Year 2026 Residential Fee Proposal Presentation (Dennis Passarella-George)
- **PASSED (19-5-1) - RESOLUTION LS001F:** A Resolution Approving the Non-Mandatory Fee Proposed by the Department of Dining Services for Fiscal Year 2026
  - **PASSED (18-6-1):** Amendment to Clause 4: "proposed a rate increase of 7.59%" changes to "proposed a rate increase of 9.33%."
- **PASSED (24-0-1) - RESOLUTION MA0001F:** A Resolution Approving the Non-Mandatory Fee Proposed by the Departments of Resident Life and Residential Facilities for Fiscal Year 2026
- Executive Team + Committee Updates
- Resident Council Updates



Justin C. received the "Senate Book" from Lexie L. (and Nicole B.) for their strong participation at Senate.

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## Committee Corner

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**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):** works with the university's Department of Transportation Services (DOTS). *Committee Coordinator: VACANT*

- We are looking for a TAC coordinator! Interested? [Apply here!](#)

**Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACOM):** works to ensure students feel safe and comfortable on campus. *Committee Coordinator: Selam Fesseha ([sfesseha@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:sfesseha@terpmail.umd.edu))*

- Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Global Harvest event!
  - Stay tuned for more events in the spring!
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**Sustainability Committee (SCOM):** works on issues that concern the university's green initiatives. *Committee Coordinator: Emily Shoemaker ([shoemak@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:shoemak@terpmail.umd.edu))*

- Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Global Harvest event! Great collab between DIACOM + SCOM!
  - Stop by the Terp to Terp open shop TODAY in the Heritage Community. Come and grab some clothes from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.!
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**Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB):** works with the dining services directors to accommodate student's dining recommendations. *Committee Coordinator: VACANT*

- RHA Senate decided the Dining Services fee increase for the first time ever!
  - More board games have been added to South Campus Dining Hall! Enjoy!
  - We are looking for a DSAB coordinator! Interested? [Apply here!](#)
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**Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATE):** works directly with the Department of Resident Life to understand the issues faced by the on-campus residents and solve them. *Committee Coordinator: Kevin Duru ([kduru1@umd.edu](mailto:kduru1@umd.edu))*

- RHA Senate voted on the Resident Life fee proposal. Thanks to all who helped!
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**Resident Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB):** works with the structures and attributes that directly affect students living in the residence halls. *Committee Coordinator: Anya Olson ([asolson@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:asolson@terpmail.umd.edu))*

- We worked all semester with Resident Facilities to ensure their housing strategic plan remains on course with little financial implications for students. The plans includes:
  - A/C in all low-rise buildings within the next three academic years
  - A/C for high-rises soon after
  - When residence halls are closed for construction, Resident Facilities will also make improvements to bathrooms, including replacing old piping and offering more privacy and convenient features

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A COMMITTEE](#)

## Looking Ahead

- **Thursday, December 5th & Friday, December 6th** - Dining Dollars Donation Drive @ South Campus and Yahentamitsi Dining Hall
- **Monday, December 9th** - Centreville 'Pancake Night' (9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.// Centreville Lobby)
- **Monday, December 9th** - last day of classes
- **Tuesday, December 17th** - last day of final exams/fall semester!
- **RHA Senate dates for Spring 2025:**
  - Tuesday, February 11th - 7:00 p.m. (special visit by President Pines)
  - Tuesday, February 25th - 7:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, March 11th - 7:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, March 25th - 7:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, April 8th - 7:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, April 22nd - 7:00 p.m.

## Photo Gallery

### RHA Global Harvest Fest & Various Council Events



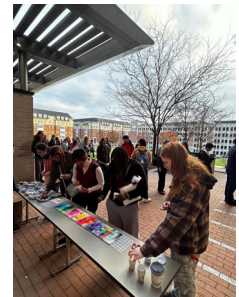
RHA Global Harvest Fest



RHA Global Harvest Fest



Denton Hall "Crafts + Chill"



NHAC "Arts and Crafts"

*Missed a previous newsletter? Click [here](#) to see all of the RHA newsletters from this school year.*

*Have an on-campus idea, comment, or concern? Contact us or visit our website!*



*3142 South Campus Dining Hall  
College Park, MD 20742*