

## **STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PRINCIPLES FOR RESIDENCE HALL LIVING**

Western Kentucky University recognizes the fact that its residence hall program is an integral part of the total educational and curricular process. A major objective of this program is to create an environment that is compatible with and supportive of the students' personal, social, and academic development. Consistent with the obligation to be fiscally responsible, the University seeks to achieve these objectives through its residence hall program by employing qualified and professional staff, encouraging residence hall self-government, respecting individual privacy and safety, and through conscientious efforts to keep costs for students at a minimum.

The Department of Housing and Residence Life offers a plan of co-ed housing. Reasonable policies and administrative regulations governing residence hall life are authorized. There are underlying principles followed in the development of the administrative guidelines. The University recognizes and accepts the responsibility to maintain a reasonable level of safety and security, taking into consideration the privacy and individual rights of students residing in the residence halls-both those who participate in the supervised visitation program and those who do not choose to do so.

Guidelines are to recognize the privacy of room occupants, while at the same time enabling the staff to provide the necessary supervision to maintain a reasonable level of safety and security.

### **ROOM ENTRY-INSPECTION-SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

The right of individuals to be secure in their person, residence hall living quarters, papers and effects against unreasonable search and seizures is constitutionally guaranteed and extends to students in this academic community. No university rule or policy gives residence hall officials authority to consent to a search of a student's living quarter by university or other governmental officials.

#### **Section 1**

The entry into the living quarters of a student may be conducted by the following people for the purposes and under the procedures detailed below:

1. By law enforcement officers in the performance of statutory duties and in accordance with legally defined procedures governing search and seizure;
2. By university custodial personnel to perform routine custodial services;
3. By authorized university personnel, as provided in Section 2, to ensure that health, fire and safety standards are maintained;
4. By authorized university personnel, or agents to make improvement and repairs and to provide routine maintenance services;
5. By authorized university personnel in emergency situations to protect

the health, comfort and welfare of a student or make emergency repairs to prevent damage to a person or property.

## **Section 2**

In order to provide a satisfactory level of maintenance, sanitation and fire safety standards, room safety checks will be made each month by a residence hall director, assistant director or other authorized residence hall staff. The times and dates are published in the Hilltopics for Residence Hall Living. Residents are welcomed and urged to be present during room inspection; however, the room will be inspected whether the resident is present or not. These inspections do not involve the observation of anything not in plain sight in the room. Drawers, closets, refrigerators, etc., are not opened. If an item that is in violation of other university regulations, listed under Responsibilities in this handbook, is observed in plain view during room safety check, it will be properly noted and may, if warranted, be removed and used as evidence in university disciplinary proceedings. In those instances when the observed item in plain view is an apparent violation of the Kentucky Penal Code or federal law, the matter may be referred to the WKU Police Department.

## **Section 3**

When it is necessary for authorized university personnel or agents to enter a student's room when no occupant is in, there should be two staff members present, if at all possible. The occupant(s) will be notified of the entry and the reason for the entry upon return.