
The Abolition of Curfews and Housing Regulations at Jackson College

Julia Bell
Tufts in American History
December 7, 2017

The Research Process



How I Came Upon this Project

- Influence of in-class reading assignments
- Jackson College, specifically
- Rules, regulations, curfews...
- The 1960s



Archival Research

- Jackson College Handbooks
 - Jackson Student Council Minutes
 - The Weekly
 - The Observer
 - Annual Reports of the President
 - Ivy Books
 - Tufts Bulletin
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Archival Gems

Judy Brown's off-campus housing survey to parents of Juniors and Seniors

Student Council

FROM: Jackson Student Council
TO: Parents of Jackson Juniors and Seniors
RE: Off-campus housing

It is presently the policy of Jackson College that all undergraduates be required to live either in campus dormitories or with relatives residing in the Boston area. Jackson Student Council is now considering a proposal that would change this plan by allowing those members of the Senior class, who have parental permission, to live in University approved off-campus housing.

Council feels that although there are occasions when the administration should rightly act in loco parentis, there are certain matters which must be left to the discretion of the girl and her family. College should be an educational experience in areas other than just the academic. It should be a transitory period, preparing students to accept the responsibility that many of their non-college peers now have. Allowing Senior women to live in apartments would be one valuable step in this direction.

Council would, therefore, like your opinions on two aspects of this issue:

1. Do you feel parents should have the option to allow their daughters to live off campus? _____
2. If the ruling were revised, do you think you would allow your daughter to live off campus? _____
3. My daughter is presently a Junior Senior (circle one).
4. Comments and/or suggestions: (use other side if necessary)

Please return this form by January 3, 1966 to:

Miss Judy Brown
Bush Hall
Jackson College
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

Thank you for your cooperation.

Archival Gems

Tufts Weekly articles

tion's refusal to allow seniors to live off-campus.

Cellophane Fresh

"Girls are different in many ways," said Acting President Mead, and this belief is manifested in the web of rules surrounding Jackson students, especially in the matter of off-campus housing. Women are watched, coddled, protected and kept cellophane fresh until they are out of the University's jurisdiction.

Yet the rules themselves provide ample opportunity for irresponsible behavior. Sign outs can be fixed (and indeed, often are). Parietal hours in the men's dorms are comparatively liberal. Bluntly, a girl who would act immaturely when living in an apartment has just as much a chance to act immaturely within the hours permitted to her on campus. It is the girl herself, not her living conditions, which will determine her behavior. Yet the Administration continues to equate dormitory residence with high moral standards.

In their exercise of the powers of *in loco parentis*, the Administration is ironically enforcing much stricter rules than many girls, especially those who are 21 and older, live with at home. Situations such as foreign travel, summer work away from home, and summer school mean that more and more girls are living and acting under rules of their own making, with their parents' approval.

We ask the Administration and especially the Self-Study Committee members to discount the charge that Jackson's character will be irreparably harmed by some of its students moving off campus. We ask them to acknowledge student support for off-campus housing, and take a stand in favor of it for Jackson seniors.

The 1970 - 1971 Jackson
College Handbook and
Jackson Student Council
Minutes

Dead Ends

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1963



Jackson College Handbooks

- Dormitory regulations spanned 15 pages in the handbooks
- Detailed curfew by class year, with seniors having greater “late” privileges than the other classes

The Beginning of the Herrick Era

- Jackson Student Council voted to give Jackson seniors unlimited “lates,” following the lead of many other liberal arts colleges at this time
- Herrick rejected the proposal

1965

Off-Campus Housing

- Jacksonites desired off-campus housing
- Committee sent out a questionnaire to the parents of Juniors and Seniors
- Herrick refused to consider it

1966

- Q & A between Jackson Student Council and Dean Herrick
- “If she doesn’t like it, she can leave”



JUDITH BROWN

37 Montrose Road
Scarsdale, New York
Sociology

A.B.

T.U.S.C.; J.S.C., President,
Senior, Junior; Jackson Self
Study Committee; J.A.C.;
L.C.S.

1966: JSC disbands

Self-Study Committee formed 1966 in response to solve the Jackson issue

1966



Bone Era

- JSC reconvened December '66
- Dean Bone addresses dormitory overcrowding, reopens discussions of off-campus housing and revising the curfew system

1967

- Self Study Committee released April '67
 - November '67 senior curfews abolished
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1968

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS AT JACKSON

A VARIETY of living opportunities is the aim of the Jackson residential program. In addition to the traditional dormitories of 50–150 women, there are several small houses which accommodate between 10 and 20 students. Some are language houses (currently French, German and Spanish), where the students speak the language of the country. These houses provide a cultural atmosphere and tone valued by both the students and the language departments, and through their programs make a cultural contribution beyond the classroom.

There are several cooperative apartments, available to Juniors and Seniors, where the students may provide their own meals and are responsible for their own supervision. In addition, a small number of Juniors and Seniors may live in their own apartments off-campus with parental permission. A new University residence is in prospect.

Among the House Directors are mature women, young faculty, and graduate couples. There is a program of student Resident Assistants within the dormitories to help assure continuing communication among all segments of the university community.

Spring Semester

- March '68 Q & A with Dean Bone regarding off-campus housing
 - 15 seniors given permission to live off-campus on trial basis
 - Extended to Juniors Fall '69
 - Abolition of Junior curfew to be implemented in the fall
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Chayes Era



Fall 1968

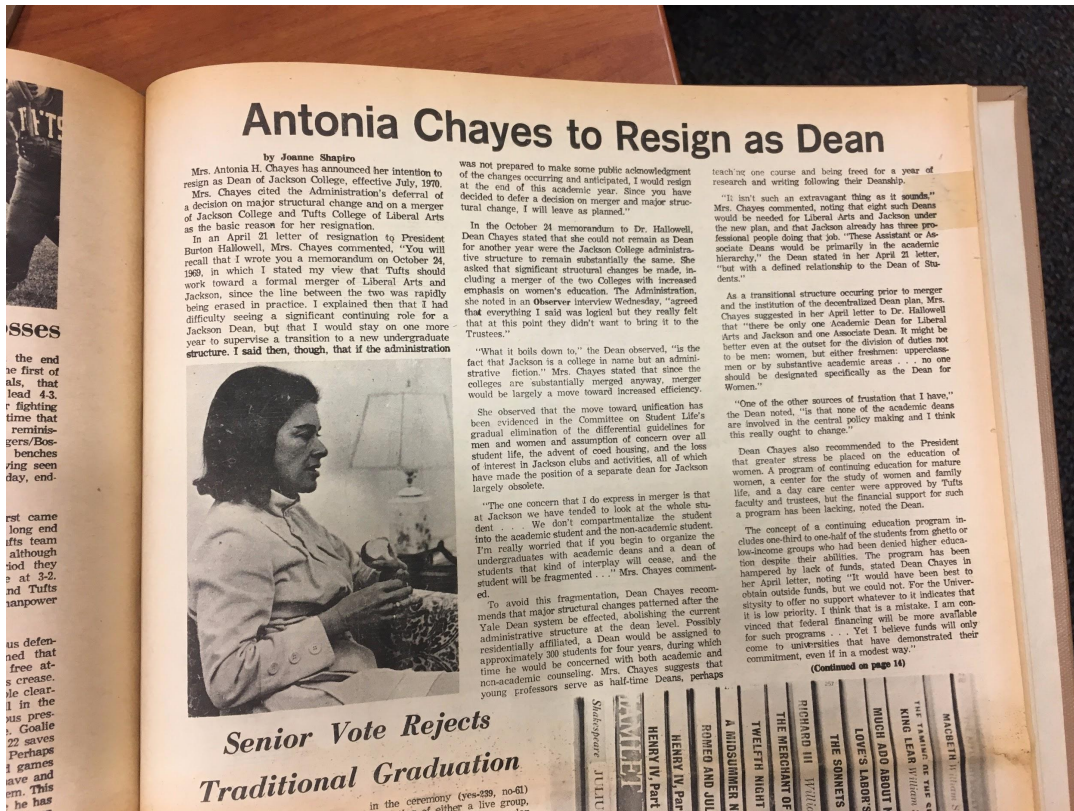
- CSL “delegates to the governing body of each residence hall the authority to establish its own operating rules within broad limits.”
- “University” dorm
- Chayes delegates authority over dormitories matters to CSL
- Frosh “specifically excluded” from CSL statement
 - Petition → 2nd semester curfew abolished

1969: Capen House, JCC, and CSL

- Sept 30th: Capen House abolished all freshman curfew
 - Chayes says not allowed - curfew imposed by JCC, petition process required
 - Oct 6th: CSL voted to uphold Capen House's abolition in line with their statement on dormitory autonomy
 - Oct 7th: CSL subcommittee invalidates Capen House's abolition based on a bylaw
 - Capen House must go back to having curfews
 - JCC's existence inherently perpetuates a double standard
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The Aftermath

- Push for JCC to merge with Tufts REB to create one URB to eliminate the double standard
- Greater push for coed dorms
- Chayes announces her resignation as of July, 1970
- "Jackson is a college in name but [is] an administrative fiction"



1970-1971

Abolition of First Semester Freshman Curfews

- Creation of a URB and implementation and normalization of coed dorms likely led to abolition of remaining freshman curfews
 - 1971-1972 Ivy Book
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