

Phone service changes in residence halls for fall 2009

Beginning fall 2009, local phone service will no longer be automatically provided in student residence hall rooms. Students who want local phone service in their rooms will still be able to do so at a cost of \$18.50 per month. These students will contract directly with the LSU Information Technology Services (ITS) department, similar to what they do now for long distance or voicemail services. Students will be able to activate phone service at the ITS offices in the Fred Frey Computing Services Center, and it will be added to their fee bill. Residential Life is working with ITS to implement an online procedure where students would use their PAWS account to activate service.

As costs are reviewed in determining the 2009-2010 residential rates, every effort is being made to trim expenses by eliminating unused or unneeded services. Recent Res Life surveys revealed that 97% of students living on campus do not use the land line phone service provided in their room. Most students use mobile phones as their primary form of telephone communication. The student organization, Residence Hall Association (RHA), recommended discontinuing local phone service as a possible way of funding the student request for wireless Internet connectivity in all residence hall rooms. The recommendation was studied, determined viable, and is now being implemented by Residential Life.

As of July 1, local phone service will no longer be provided and all residence hall rooms will have wireless connectivity by fall 2009. The phone line and connection will remain in all student rooms and will be included in new residence hall construction, but will only be activated on an "as requested" or "as needed" basis.