A Resolution to Support the Exploration of Potential Improvements to the Current Department of Resident Life Housing Policies and Sanctions

WHEREAS the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the representative body for all on-campus students, and

WHEREAS the RHA has priority influence over matters pertaining to the Department of Resident Life (DRL) and on-campus housing, and

WHEREAS every student is given the “Rights and Responsibilities” handbook upon arrival to their residence hall, detailing the specific rules for what is permitted and not permitted in the halls, and

WHEREAS the current system breaks down possible violations into two categories, A Violations and B Violations, and

WHEREAS many residents do not have a clear understanding of how this system works or which violations are in which category, and

WHEREAS the Community Living Principles (Be Safe, Be Civil, Be Cooperative, Be Involved) are meant to serve as guidelines to our on-campus living experience, yet the current policies do not reflect these principles as clearly as they should, and

WHEREAS DRL has discussed the need to move beyond the violation categories for several years now, and has found it best to explore the possibility of implementing case-by-case treatment of sanctions based on the merits or deficits of each student’s case, and

WHEREAS the Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATe) has been tasked with revisiting other housing policies in the past, such as the Good Samaritan Policy, and has consistently made valuable contributions to these discussions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ReLATe be tasked with discussing and examining the current housing rules and sanctions as described by DRL, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ReLATe identify factors that DRL would be advised to take into account in its planning to put these changes into effect, and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ReLATe come to a common consensus about any or all aspects of the proposed changes, come up with some preliminary language for these policies that would enhance the residents’ ability to understand the housing policies and their respective sanctions and present a resolution to the RHA Senate on the issue if/when they are well-prepared to do so.

Authored by: Approved by:
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<td>1</td>
<td>President</td>
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