A Resolution Addressing Concerns with Roomsurf's Practices on University of Maryland-Related Facebook Pages

39-0-0

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

WHEREAS the RHA has priority influence in regards to issues within the University of Maryland, College Park Department of Resident Life (DRL) through the Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATe), and

WHEREAS ReLATe and DRL have worked diligently to improve the current roommate matching system and together have determined RoomSync to be the best and most viable option, and

WHEREAS the RHA directed DRL to enter into a contract as soon possible with RoomSync through passing Resolution MJL003 2012, and

WHEREAS a Facebook group exists under the name "University of Maryland Class of 2016," and

WHEREAS one of the Administrators of the group, a co-founder of Roomsurf, has repeatedly posted advertisements for the system, and

WHEREAS students have raised concerns that these posts in the group may be misleading to incoming freshmen, and

WHEREAS students may be therefore mislead to use Roomsurf at a cost to themselves, and

WHEREAS Roomsurf, according to a New York Times article, has used questionable business practices on Facebook group pages directed at incoming students of other universities, and

WHEREAS not many students are aware of the foreseen contract with RoomSync, and

WHEREAS Roomsurf is aware that the University of Maryland (UMD) is pursuing a contract with RoomSync,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as soon as DRL enters into a contract with RoomSync, an email will be sent out to all students informing them of the contract, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this email will contain details about why DRL ultimately decided to pursue RoomSync, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this email will include details about how RoomSync would operate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this email will alert students to the fact that RoomSync will be part of the services provided by DRL, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ReLATe recommends that DRL contact the Office of Legal Affairs at UMD to examine the legal issues that may be present with this or any other such Facebook page, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that RHA will alert students to the UMD-RoomSync affiliation via Facebook and Twitter as soon as the contract has been formally accepted by both parties.

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