A Resolution Urging the Department of Resident Life to Adopt the Proposed Changes in the Residence Hall Rules

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 (UMD) Department of Resident Life (DRL) through the Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATe), and

WHEREAS every student is given the "Rights and Responsibilities" handbook upon arrival to their residence hall, detailing the specific Residence Hall Rules governing residence hall behavior, and

WHEREAS the current structure 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 structure operates or which violations are in which category, and

WHEREAS UMD and DRL have an obligation to maintain a positive approach to citizenship education, and

WHEREAS the Community Living Principles (Be Safe, Be Civil, Be Cooperative, Be Involved), that were established in 2004 to help accomplish the aforementioned goal, have yet to be integrated into the Residence Hall Rules, and

WHEREAS the current Residence Hall Rules fail to closely align DRL conduct strategies with prevailing trends in the conduct field, and

WHEREAS DRL has worked for several years now to create a better structure for the Residence Hall Rules, and

WHEREAS DRL ultimately concluded that the best structure existed in a model where there would be one set of rules, streamlined from the A and B Violations, where sanctions would be treated on a case-by-case basis depending on the merits or deficits of each student's case, and

WHEREAS the RHA Senate tasked ReLATe to review this proposed change through passage of Resolution CMS002 2012, and

WHEREAS ReLATe has decided that the proposed changes in the Residence Hall Rules would be more efficient, user-friendly, productive, and beneficial to the on-campus student community, and
WHEREAS every Senate voting member received a copy of the new draft of the Residence Hall Rules via email,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RHA Senate urge DRL to proceed with the changes to the Residence Hall Rules as proposed to and discussed in ReLATe, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ReLATe will continue to work with DRL in order to best integrate the new Residence Hall Rules into the "Rights and Responsibilities" handbook and make any other changes necessary to ensure the handbook adequately relays these changes to the residents, and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ReLATe will be tasked over the course of the 2012-2013 academic year with monitoring the transition to the new structure.

Authored by: Mike Lichtenberg
Chair, Resident Life Advisory Team
Senator-at-Large
Residence Hall Association

Approved by: Sasha R. Azar
Vice President
Residence Hall Association

Sponsored by: Resident Life Advisory Team
Residence Hall Association