A Resolution Supporting the Initiative by the Department of Resident Life to Begin a Pilot Program on Gender-Inclusive Housing in the Residence Halls

Call for Acclimation

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

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

WHEREAS DRL has developed a pilot program for instituting gender-inclusive housing in certain UMD Residence Halls, and

WHEREAS “gender-inclusive housing” is a broad term and can include many different floor plan configurations including: mixed-gender floors, semi-suites, suites or apartments; mixed-gender rooms; and unisex restrooms, and

WHEREAS specifically, the term “mixed gender” indicates that individual rooms are assigned by sex, and rooms on the same floor (or within the same apartment/suite) alternate sexes and,

WHEREAS, specifically, “gender-inclusive” indicates a configuration where students, regardless of sex, gender identity, or gender expression share the same room, and

WHEREAS Amy Martin and Erin Iverson from DRL gave a presentation on the details of the pilot program to the RHA Senate on October 9, 2012 and ReLATe on October 16, 2012, and

WHEREAS The George Washington University, in addition to other universities nationwide, and several University System of Maryland schools including Frostburg State, Towson, and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) have piloted gender-inclusive housing programs, and

WHEREAS a DRL student survey in the Spring of 2012 indicated that 49% of on-campus students would prefer mixed-gender housing options, with 23% indicating that they would prefer gender-inclusive housing and 28% indicating a single-gender housing option preference,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RHA Senate fully support DRL’s gender-inclusive pilot program, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ReLATe will continue to work with DRL to monitor the implementation of this pilot program, and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that DRL give a presentation to the RHA Senate one year following implementation to discuss the pilot program’s effectiveness and review the next steps in the process.
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