A Resolution Supporting Changes to Room Selection as a Result of the Gender-Inclusive Housing Initiative

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

WHEREAS the RHA has a 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 DRL developed a pilot program for gender-inclusive housing for UMD residence halls, which was subsequently supported by the RHA Senate via passage of Resolution NAR001 2012F, and

WHEREAS ReLATe met with DRL Director Deborah Grandner, Associate Director for North Campus Amy Martin, Assignments and Public Inquiry Manager Erin Iverson, and IT Manager Thomas Lamp on November 27, 2012 to discuss potential changes to the online room selection required in order to facilitate the gender-inclusive pilot program, and

WHEREAS the agreed upon changes would include altering room sex designations by assigning a neutral “N” designation to all empty suites and apartments, making the priority number system one gender neutral list, adding an option on the Returning Student Agreement to indicate interest in gender-inclusive housing and requiring those students interested in participating in the pilot to attend information sessions devoted to these changes, and

WHEREAS these changes only reflect what is feasible for the upcoming year, and that additional changes will be made incrementally to coincide with implementation of the pilot program down the road, and

WHEREAS there was a positive consensus among ReLATe members for these changes, and

WHEREAS information regarding these changes was sent to each member of RHA and presented on during this meeting,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RHA Senate move to support the proposed changes to the Room Selection process for the 2013-2014 academic year in order to facilitate the implementation of the gender-inclusive housing pilot program.

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