STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

A Senate Resolution Calling Upon Northeastern’s Offices of Housing and Residential Life to Reform its Housing Policy to be More Inclusive to LGBTQIAP+ Students and Residents of this University

SR-SP-17-102

Whereas: The Offices of Housing and Residential Life currently define All Gender Housing “as a housing option in which two or more students share a multiple-occupancy apartment or suite, in mutual agreement, regardless of the students’ sex or gender”; AND

Whereas: The Offices of Housing and Residential Life currently state All Gender Housing “is offered so that students in the process of discovering their gender identity, or who do/do not wish to identify themselves by gender, or as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender students, or students who feel more comfortable with a roommate of a different gender will find a more compatible roommate and living situation within this community”; AND

Whereas: Students who select the All Gender housing option have, in confidence to members of the Student Services Committee, reported being unable to find accommodations that suit their preferences because of the limited selection of rooms and apartments set aside for All Gender housing; AND

Whereas: The current Housing Selection process excludes students who do not identify as male or female or do not feel comfortable with the currently imposed gendered restrictions by requiring them to fill out supplemental forms at the time of submitting a housing application thereby severely limiting the accommodations available to them; AND

Whereas: The Offices of Housing and Residential Life currently define All Gender Housing “as a housing option in which two or more students share a multiple-occupancy apartment or suite, in mutual agreement, regardless of the students’ sex or gender”; AND

Whereas: Current university housing places male and female students in adjacent accommodations, indicating gender segregation is not a priority of this university; AND

Whereas: Second-year students are unable, barring dire financial circumstances, to move off campus to seek a more comfortable housing situation due to Housing Policy for second-year; AND

Whereas: Northeastern, in striving to create professionals prepared for the “real world”, should strive to parallel the real world in every facet of policy, including housing; AND

Whereas: Men and women commonly live together or share apartments following or concurrent with their undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral studies; AND
Whereas: Northeastern wants to foster an inclusive, not exclusive, environment, as stated on the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion's website by stating that "[Northeastern] value[s] and celebrate[s] diversity in all its forms and strive[s] to foster an inclusive culture built on respect that affirms inter-group relations and builds community"; AND

Whereas: We, as a Student Government Association, tasked with representing and advocating for the general undergraduate student population, see it as a necessity of an institution dedicated to the core ideals of diversity and inclusion to create more options than barriers for students seeking comfort in their housing situation(s); AND

Whereas: We, as a Student Government Association, believe the best way to show a true commitment to the pillars of diversity and inclusion in regards to providing LGBTQIAP+ students with resources is for the university to start within its own institutional infrastructure; AND

Whereas: The Resident Student Association has hosted focus groups where numerous Hall Councils have expressed concern with the current All Gender Housing policy; AND

Whereas: The Resident Student Association has hosted focus groups where numerous Hall Councils have expressed concern with the current All Gender Housing policy; AND

Whereas: The Resident Student Association hosted a Town Hall with the Director of Housing, who was open and receptive to the idea of all upperclass All Gender Housing, upon formal documentation of a proposal from both the Resident Student Association and the Student Government Association; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
That the Senate formally calls upon the Office of Student Affairs to make structured recommendations to the Offices of Housing and Residential Life within the next year to reform the entirety of its housing policy beyond first-year accommodations.

The Senate specifically calls upon the Northeastern University administration to take the following actions regarding All Gender Housing:

1. Reform the current housing program to create a blanket All Gender Program for 2nd-year students and above who live in on-campus housing wherein (a) all housing options would be open to all students, regardless of gender, (b) students could select roommates and suitmates regardless of gender and, (c) students without selected roommates/suitmates could opt-into a single gender random placement.

2. Include provisions in this reformed program with information on all-gender housing and clear instructions for students’ desired placements.

3. Implement a new "Housing Community Standards Agreement" with the reforms specific to discussing issues relating to the new housing policy.
Respectfully submitted to the Senate with the recommendation of the Student Services Committee.

Jacob Grondin  
Senator for the College of Science  
Vice President for Advocacy, Resident Student Association

Jace Ritchey  
Senator for Sexual Assault Response Campaign

Gabriel Morris  
Assistant Vice President, Student Services Committee  
Senator for the College of Social Sciences and Humanities

Elliot Horen  
President

Approve:  

Attest:  

Suchira Sharma  
Executive Vice President

Date: 2/13/2017

Yes: 34

No: 0

Abstain: 1

References:

2. Ibid.