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S14RS SGR No. 53 (Gender Neutral Housing)

Bryce Bourgeois

Hilton

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A RESOLUTION

TO URGE AND REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE TO INVESTIGATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTS.

PARAGRAPH 1: Whereas, per the Living On Campus Handbook section on Appreciating Diverse Communities, "The Department of Residential Life is committed to providing a community that is accepting of students and staff of different backgrounds, racial and ethnic identities, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, age, physical abilities or other aspects of identity"; and

PARAGRAPH 2: Whereas, the Louisiana State University "Commitment to Community" states that we practice justice, equality, and compassion in human relations; and

PARAGRAPH 3: Whereas, for a many different reasons, not all students feel comfortable living with other students of the same sex or gender; and

PARAGRAPH 4: Whereas, there are students living on campus who are placed into potentially discriminative and uncomfortable situations in dorms, due to reinforced gendered stereotypes; and

PARAGRAPH 5: Whereas, gender-based housing is inherently heteronormative because it suggests that men and women must not be allowed to live with one another because it may enable men and women in relationships to live together; implicit in this notion is the assumption that everyone is heterosexual and there are no other alternatives, which does not reflect the diversity of gender identities and sexual orientations within the LSU community; and

PARAGRAPH 6: Whereas, gender-neutral housing is defined as a housing option in which two or more students share a multiple-occupancy apartment or suite regardless of the students' sex, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; and

PARAGRAPH 7: Whereas, gender-neutral housing provides options for a variety of students: those who feel uncomfortable rooming with members of the same sex, transgender students in the process of discovering their gender identity, students who feel they would be more compatible with a roommate of a different sex or
GENDER, AND STUDENTS WHO DO NOT WANT SEX OR GENDER TO BE A PRIMARY FACTOR IN CHOOSING A ROOMMATE; AND

PARAGRAPH 8: WHEREAS, GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING CAN BE A FIRST STEP IN DECREASING THE NOTION THAT MEN AND WOMEN HAVE MORALLY RELEVANT DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THEM THAT MERIT SEPARATE TREATMENT; AND

PARAGRAPH 9: WHEREAS, GENDER-NEUTRAL LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OFTEN DECREASE FEELINGS OF VULNERABILITY AND INCREASE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SEXES; AND

PARAGRAPH 10: WHEREAS, MOST STUDENTS ARE OF LEGAL ADULT AGE, AND AS SUCH, THEY DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FREELY CHOOSE THEIR HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS BASED ON WHOM THEY ARE MOST COMFORTABLE WITH; AND

PARAGRAPH 11: WHEREAS, OVER 150 TOP UNIVERSITIES HAVE GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING OPTIONS, AND EVERY IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL HAS ADOPTED SIMILAR POLICIES; AND

PARAGRAPH 12: WHEREAS, A GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING PROGRAM AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY WOULD CONSIST OF DESIGNATED HALLWAYS OR A COLLECTION OF DORM ROOMS IN A UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL THAT WOULD BE OTHERWISE IDENTICAL TO ALL OTHER ROOMS IN ITS RESIDENCE HALL; AND

PARAGRAPH 13: WHEREAS, GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING OPTIONS AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN RESIDENTIAL HALLS THAT HAVE ACCESS TO SINGLE PERSON BATHROOMS; AND

PARAGRAPH 14: WHEREAS, A GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING PROGRAM AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE AN OPTIONAL PROGRAM OFFERED TO ANYONE APPLYING FOR ON-CAMPUS HOUSING.

PARAGRAPH 15: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE URGES AND REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE TO INVESTIGATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTS.

PARAGRAPH 16: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE WALLER.

PARAGRAPH 17: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (1/2) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.