Endorsement of the Report on Special Interest Housing Organizations and the Office for Residential Life
Senate Resolution No. 28

SUBMITTED BY:  David Stark ʻ16, Senator

CO-SPONSORED BY:  Rebecca Mooney ʻ18, Senator
Camila Lopez ʻ18, Student Life Legislative Aide
Criswell Lavery ʻ19 Student Life Legislative Aide

ENDORSED BY:  The Senate Student Life Committee

WHEREAS, the University’s Office of Residential Life and Housing Services ("ResLife") defines Special Interest Housing ("SIH") as "space set aside in the upperclass residence halls where a group of upperclassmen, sharing common interests and seeking to integrate these interests with their residential life, live together.;”¹ and,

WHEREAS, approximately 95 students are housed in existing non-greek SIH organizations, and 304 students are currently listed on the Campus Community Connection as members of existing non-greek SIH organizations; and,

WHEREAS, the Students’ Association Government shares the vision of The College in developing a residential campus and likewise supports the SIH program as an integral component of that vision; and,

WHEREAS, the Students’ Association Government commissioned a focus group with SIH leaders on January 31, 2015, to examine the resources, policies, and procedures related to the administration of their organizations; and,

WHEREAS, our research\(^2\) shows that SIH leaders are deeply anxious and confused by their relationship with ResLife; we find that each SIH has a very different understanding of the role of an SIH on our campus, and that ResLife’s performance expectations remain unclear to SIH leaders; and,

WHEREAS, we find that all SIH leaders in our focus group are deeply unsatisfied with the communication between ResLife and their own SIH; and,

WHEREAS, the Senate Student Life Committee has authored the “Report on Special Interest Housing and the Office for Residential Life” to address these shortcomings and propose solutions; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Senate endorses the “Report on Special Interest Housing and the Office for Residential Life”; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate charges the Executive Branch to work with Residential Life and Wilson Commons Students’ Activities to secure the implementation of these recommendations and the establishment of a joint committee.

\[\text{Signature}\]
Ethan Bidna
Speaker, Students’ Association Senate

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Grant Dever
President, Students’ Association

Senate Votes:
Yes: 14  No: 0  Abs: 0  Date: 02/15/2016