Supporting Compensation for Student Property Damage in Gale Residence Hall
Senate Resolution No. 29

SUBMITTED BY: Anmol Almst ‘18, Senator
CO-SPONSORED BY: David Stark ‘16, Senator
ENDORSED BY: Tristan Ford ‘17, Chair, University of Rochester Student Health Advisory Committee
Miles Meth ‘16, Executive Director of Community Engagement

WHEREAS, on the morning of February 14, 2016, a sprinkler pipe burst and caused flooding across rooms on the 30s and 40s sections of Gale House; and,

WHEREAS, installation and maintenance of sprinkler pipes is the responsibility of the University of Rochester, not individual students; and,

WHEREAS, cold weather, cited as the cause of the pipe burst, is common to the City of Rochester, and it is thus the responsibility of the University to take necessary steps to prevent pipe freezes; and,

WHEREAS, students affected by flooding report between $4,000 and $10,000 worth of personal property damage, and as of February 22, 2016, report concerns about foul odor and mold growth throughout the residence hall; and,

WHEREAS, students seeking compensation for damages caused by the flooding were directed by Office for Residential Life to the 2015-2016 housing contract, which states, "The University is not liable for damage or loss of personal property;" and,

WHEREAS, students throughout the University community are unsatisfied by this response, which is an abdication of professional responsibility that trivializes the financial concerns of students,

1 https://www.rochester.edu/reslife/assets/pdf/2016-17/Upperclass_Contract.pdf
THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Students’ Association Senate directs the Executive Branch to work with the Office for Residential Life, the Dean of the College, the Dean of Students and other appropriate departments to compensate students for their loss of personal property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Students’ Association Senate urges the related departments to develop clearer communications processes and property compensation policies in the event of similar situations in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Students’ Association Senate urges the Department of Facilities to perform all necessary maintenance on residential dormitories to prevent similar incidents from occurring.

Ethan Bidna ’16  
Speaker, Students’ Association Senate

Grant Dever ’16  
President, Students’ Association

Senate Votes:
Yes: 13  No: 0  Abs: 0  Date: 02/22/2018