Senate Resolution #10
2015-2016
Support for Residence Hall Association Resolution #13

WHEREAS, ASUN student government represents all students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, including those living in Residence Halls, AND,

WHEREAS, One of ASUN’s responsibilities, as outlined in the by-laws of the ASUN Constitution, is to serve as a liaison between the general student body and students living in the Residence Halls, AND,

WHEREAS, The Residence Hall Association is a representative voice for all students currently living in Residence Halls, AND,

WHEREAS, The Residence Hall Association has recently raised concerns regarding the ban on overnight stays of members of the opposite sex, as currently outlined in the Overnight Guest Policy (see attachment) and its implications for the inclusivity of non-gender-conforming students at the University, AND,

WHEREAS, The Residence Hall Association voted in favor of “Resolution #13: Support for updating the Overnight Guest Policy” by a 40-2-0 majority, which affirms the Residence Hall Association’s support of modifying the Overnight Guest Policy (as outlined in attachment),

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is the only Big Ten University to include such language in its Overnight Guest Policy,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That ASUN supports RHA in its efforts to work with University Housing and other relevant decision-making bodies to update the Overnight Guest Policy, AND

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That ASUN will send this Resolution to all relevant decision-making bodies involved with the Overnight Guest Policy modification, including Housing Services.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That ASUN will explore and research options to adopt similar modifications to other on-campus housing overnight guest policies, including Greek housing.

SUBMITTED BY    Campus Life Committee    DATE    11-30-15

FLOOR ACTION    DATE

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE    DATE
SR 13: Support for Updating the Overnight Guest Policy

Submitted by: Speaker Wehr on behalf of RHA Executive Board Submission Date: 11/6/15

1. Whereas the Overnight Guest Policy as stated in the Housing Contract Policy Booklet for the 2015-2016 academic year does not permit “opposite sex” overnight guests (exact policy wording attached); and,

2. Whereas this policy does not recognize biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation are distinct concepts; and,

3. Whereas the intent of this policy is primarily to protect roommates; and,

4. Whereas the theoretical problems of allowing “opposite sex” guests to stay overnight (i.e. making the roommate uncomfortable) can still exist with same gender overnight guests; and,

5. Whereas it is the Senate’s opinion that other parts of the rule adequately address roommates’ rights regarding overnight guests; and,

6. Whereas the housing policies of all Big 10 institutions, the University of Nebraska-Omaha and University of Nebraska-Kearney, and other universities within the Midwest have been thoroughly researched; and

7. Whereas the University of Nebraska- Lincoln is the only Big 10 institution to have such a policy regarding overnight guests;

Be it therefore resolved that the Residence Hall Association supports the modification of the Overnight Guest Policy to the version that is attached to this resolution starting from the 2016-2017 academic year, if possible, or the 2017-2018 academic year

Floor Action:

President's Signature:
Current Policy (2015-2016 Traditional Housing Contract)

Overnight guests: Residents may have same-sex overnight guests in their room subject to the limitations listed below:
- Overnight guests are only allowed with the consent of other roommates. Visitation or overnight guests of one roommate should not infringe on the rights or access of other roommates.
- The stay of the overnight guest(s) may not exceed four days (96 hours) in one month and such guests may not disturb roommates or other residents.
- University staff reserves the right to require a guest to leave if University policies and/or residence hall policies are violated or if complaints are received from members of the floor/hall community.
- Violation of any of these policies may lead to the limitation of guests visiting the resident(s) involved, nonresidents being charged with trespassing and residents (both guest and host) having their housing contract status reviewed.
- The privilege of having guests may be revoked if the privilege is abused or residence hall or University policy violations occur involving the guests.
- Same-sex overnight guests must be registered at the front desk and must carry some form of Photo I.D.
- No opposite-sex guests are permitted to sleep in a room overnight.

Proposed Policy (Above Policy with Yellow Highlighted Words Removed)

Overnight guests: Residents may have overnight guests in their room subject to the limitations listed below:
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- The stay of the overnight guest(s) may not exceed four days (96 hours) in one month and such guests may not disturb roommates or other residents.
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- The privilege of having guests may be revoked if the privilege is abused or residence hall or University policy violations occur involving the guests.
- Overnight guests must be registered at the front desk.