

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1030**

**TITLE:** Resolution recognizing the need for an on-campus LGBTQ+ Living Learning Community at the University of Florida

**AUTHOR(S):** LGBTQ+ Caucus Co-Leader Ryan Wilder, LGBTQ+ Caucus Co-Leader Matthew Rodriguez

**SPONSORS:** Senator Faith Allen, Senator Kevin Trejos, Senator Stephen Singleton, Senator Sparsha Muralidhara, Senator Zoe Turner, Senator Dylan Attlesey, Senator Shawn Zimmer, Senator Santiago Clavijo-Gomez, Senator Aviv Cutler, Senator Tyler Visuvasam, Senator Mohammed Faisal, Senator Sahil Patel, Senator Nagarajan Rajagopal, Pride Student Union President Alex Hernandez, Inter-Residence Hall Association President Colin Solomon, First Generation Affairs Cabinet Director Daniel Badell, Kristen Jackson, Raisa Karim, Matthew Diaz, Matthew R. Barocas, College Democrats at UF

**WHEREAS**, according to campuspride.org, as of 2017, 272 colleges and universities provide gender-inclusive housing options in which students have the choice to room with a student that identifies with their gender [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to campuspride.org, eight schools in the state of Florida already provide these options as of 2017, including UCF, UNF, UWF, FIU and the University of Miami [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Living Learning Communities at the University of Florida are designed for students to “have access to exclusive activities that are designed to support the interests and needs of students in a focused area” [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are no current measures to provide LGBTQ+ students with an on-campus housing option that centralizes resources and provides a collective and inclusive living space that meets the interests and needs of the LGBTQ+ community at the University of Florida [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, current housing procedures might place nonbinary and transgender students on a floor that may not match their gender identity as floors are currently designated based on sex [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the only listed resource currently available to students who are not comfortable with the living arrangements they have been provided when it relates to their gender identity are to “discuss [their] feelings with either [their] Resident Assistant or [their] hall’s Graduate Hall Director (Community Resource Assistant) or Residence Life Coordinator (Residence Director)” [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the designation of a residence hall as an LGBTQ+ Living Learning Community could alleviate these issues as it creates a concentrated area to provide specialized resources,

counseling, and a residency that allows a student to live with another that matches their gender identity [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the designation of a residence hall as a Living Learning Community for LGBTQ+ students alleviates the stressor of these students living with another that may not be an LGBTQ+ ally [5]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that an LGBTQ+ Living Learning Community could provide the LGBTQ+ community at the University of Florida a collective and inclusive living space with centralized resources that meets their needs.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that an LGBTQ+ Living Learning Community could provide LGBTQ+ students with a housing designation that matches their gender identity.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that an LGBTQ+ Living Learning Community could prevent LGBTQ+ students from living with a student that is not an LGBTQ+ ally.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to establish an on-campus LGBTQ+ Living Learning Community.

*Proviso: Senior Director of Housing and Residence Education Tina Horvath, Executive Assistant of Housing and Residence Education Cortney Butcher, University Housing Residence Life Director Calvin Mosley, Associate Dean of Students and Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Senior Director William Atkins, Senior Director Director of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Affairs Tiffany Richards, Student Body President Trevor Pope, Student Body Vice President Lauredan Official, LGBTQ Affairs Cabinet Director Austin Freedman, and Diversity Cabinet Chair Robyn Louis.*

[1] <https://www.campuspride.org/tpc/gender-inclusive-housing/>

[2] <https://residents.housing.ufl.edu/academic-initiatives/lc/>

[3] Per Inter-Residence Hall Association

[4] <https://lgbtq.multicultural.ufl.edu/resources/faq/>

[5] Per Pride Student Union