



Student Government Resolution 115.002
A Resolution in Strong Support of A Gender Neutral Housing Option Pilot Program by
Fall 2015

Sponsored by the Student Government Campus Diversity Committee:
Zach Hollstrom, Chair, Jessie Poole, Christy Crouse, Ly Dong; Drew Paulman, President
of the Student Association

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- In spring 2013, Student Government passed a resolution 9-2-1 in support of a Gender Neutral Housing option; and
- Truman State University does not currently offer a Gender Neutral Housing option for on-campus housing residents; and
- Truman's Residence Life only permits housing requests for students of the opposite legal sex on a case-by-case basis; and
- Sex-based housing operates under the assumption that all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are safest and most comfortable with members of the same legal sex; and
- Truman's implementation of a Gender Neutral Housing Option would result in having a safer, more inclusive environment perceived by all students; and
- A Gender Neutral Housing option would allow students to select roommates and suitemates based on factors beyond sharing the same legal sex; and
- A Gender Neutral Housing option would create a more inclusive community for students who are uncomfortable living with a member of the same sex, especially gender nonconforming and transgender students; and
- Truman State University should seek to support and to accommodate all students, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity; and
- Students from Yale, Northwest Missouri State, and Columbia College report a high degree of satisfaction with Gender Neutral Housing¹; and
- Well over 134 universities across the United States have already implemented a Gender Neutral Housing Option²; and
- Northwest Missouri State University, a university comparable to Truman based on size and geographic location, indicated an overwhelming amount of positive feedback and very little concern over romantic couples utilizing a Gender Neutral Housing option after implementation in Fall 2012¹; and

1: Report on Gender Neutral Housing for Truman State University



- In on-campus residence polling at Truman State University, 51.6% of students in the survey sample definitively indicated that they were in favor of a Gender Neutral Housing option while only 15.3% of students definitively indicated that they were against a Gender Neutral Housing option¹; and
- In said Residence Life poll, 17.1% of surveyed students indicated they would be more likely to live on campus if Truman offered a Gender Neutral Housing option; and
- After thorough research, Director of Residence Life John Gardner's report supported the implementation of a Gender Neutral Housing option in his Spring 2013 recommendation to President Troy Paino and Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Reinforces its support of the implementation of a Gender Neutral Housing option at Truman State University; and
- Fully endorses a plan to implement a pilot program for a Gender Neutral Housing option by Fall 2015, beginning in Campbell apartments; and
- Strongly encourages Truman State University's administration to implement said pilot program and continue the subsequent expansion of Gender Neutral Housing pending evaluation, in a manner similar to that recommended by Residence Life Director John Gardner in his report in Spring 2013.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to each current member of the Truman State University Board of Governors, President Troy Paino, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs Sue Thomas, Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist, Director of Residence Life John Gardner, PRISM and the Truman Media Network.

President of the Student Association, Andrew Paulman