SB16-08/09: Residence Life Policy

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Residence Life Policy
October 8, 2008
Senate Bill Number SB16-08/09

Authored by: Trevor Hunter, ASUM President

Whereas, current Residence Life on-campus housing acceptance policy is inadequate to deal with increases in enrollment, especially with regard to lower classmen;
Whereas, lower classmen at UM must live on campus until they have achieved at least 30 academic credits;
Whereas, due to record setting enrollment over the last two years, students who apply late to live in on-campus housing have been forced to live in interim housing, which includes dorm study halls, TV lounges, and dorm basements, until residence hall space becomes available;
Whereas, more than 100 students were forced to live in interim housing at the beginning of Fall 2006, 78 in Fall 2007 and 148 in Fall 2008;
Whereas, 65 male students are still living in interim housing as of Friday October 3rd;
Whereas, many of these students have indicated their resolve to live on-campus by remaining in interim housing, as opposed to seeking off-campus alternatives, regardless of their eligibility to move off-campus;
Whereas, Residence Life has made continuous efforts to encourage eligible students to move into off-campus housing, even providing lists of available housing in the University district and the Missoula community;
Whereas, Residence Life has granted an exception from their policies to allow freshman pledges access to their fraternity’s off-campus housing;
Whereas, a UM administrator has offered an open room in her house and faculty and staff have offered their on-campus offices as possible alternatives, with no result;
Whereas, it is clear that current Residence Life policy must change in order to prevent or limit the number of students who remain in interim housing for long periods of time;
Therefore Let It Be Resolved that ASUM supports a change in Residence Life on-campus housing acceptance policy in order to deter students from applying late and thus being placed in interim housing for an indeterminate amount of time.

Therefore Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM will work with Residence Life and the Vice President of Student Affairs to determine an appropriate change in policy.

Passed by Committee: _________________________, 2008
Passed by Senate: _____________________________, 2008

Andrew Dusek, Siri Smillie,
Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate