

R F2020.11

A Resolution Condemning the Actions of the University Regarding the Cancelling of Student Housing Contracts

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

November 15, 2020

Sponsored by: Anna Colvin, Alli Goodsell, Sarah Salino, Kayla Rothstein, Tyler Fioritto, Gabriela Torres, Gaurie Gunasekaran, Zackariah Farah, Caroline Theuerkauf, Josiah Walker, Mary McKillop, Tim Dalrymple, Danny Hwang, Adrianna Farmer, Selena Bazzi, Riley List, Chayton Fivecoat, Joseph Lobodzinski, Sophia Rich

Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”¹; and,

Whereas, the stated purpose of the Student Life Committee (hereafter SLC) is to “actively work to improve the lives of LSA students outside of the academic sphere”; and,

Whereas, the University of Michigan (hereafter the University) insisted upon students returning to campus in the Fall, despite knowledge of the health risk that decision posed; and,²

Whereas, the University recently announced (with short notice) the cancellation of housing contracts for students currently residing in University housing³; and,

Whereas, while students who wish to remain in University housing beyond November 22, 2020 may complete a consideration form, this does not guarantee a spot in housing which may place an additional burden upon students, many of whom are already facing the unprecedented circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

²<https://president.umich.edu/news-communications/letters-to-the-community/announcing-a-public-health-informed-fall-semester-for-the-university-of-michigan/>

³ <https://record.umich.edu/articles/plans-announced-for-winter-semester-academics-housing-testing/>

Whereas, the University has provided very few guidelines for the moving out process, such as lack of information about move out assistance, on-campus storage, and moving supplies leaving students with inadequate time to explore and financially arrange housing alternatives; and,

Whereas, the inability of the University to guarantee housing disproportionately affects students of lower socioeconomic status, many of whom are unable to relocate to alternative housing.

Be it therefore resolved, that LSA SG condemns the University's decision to cancel all student housing contracts with very short notice; and,

Be it further resolved, that LSA SG calls on the University to make future decisions regarding student life with greater transparency and with a clearer understanding of the financial and emotional stressors their decisions result in; and,

Be it further resolved, that LSA SG calls on the University to direct students to resources that can assist them in arranging housing plans; and,

Be it finally resolved, this resolution will be sent to relevant University faculty and administration, including but not limited to President, Mark Schlissel, the Provost, Susan Collins, the Vice President for Student Life, Martino Harmon, the Director of Housing, Rick Gibson, and the Dean of Students, Laura Blake Jones