S.A. Resolution #21
A Proposal for a Queer-Inclusive Housing Option

ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the creation of a queer-inclusive program house to benefit all queer individuals at Cornell.

Sponsored by: Ian Wallace ’20 and Joseph Anderson ’20

Whereas, Cornell University has a long tradition of queer advocacy since the founding of the first queer student organization in 1968, and;

Whereas, the founding of this queer student organization made Cornell University the second ever college campus in the nation to have a queer student organization, and;

Whereas, in 1992 and 1993, Joseph Barrios the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual At-Large Representative to the Student Assembly passed a resolution calling for the creation of a similar queer-inclusive program house, and;

Whereas, these resolutions were denied by then President Rhodes both times, an insult to the queer community, and;

Whereas, The Cornell LGBT Resource Center (LGBTRC), founded in 1994, is the only center founded at Cornell specifically to support queer students, faculty, and staff, and;

Whereas, The Cornell LGBT Resource Center does not have sufficient resources to accommodate and support all queer members of the Cornell community, and;

Whereas, the number of queer spaces available to queer individuals at Cornell and Ithaca is not currently sufficient, and;

Whereas, the political climate has fostered the expression of various forms of hatred and bigotry and therefore has created a hostile national climate for many queer individuals, and;

Whereas, this climate has translated into many acts of bias and hatred against queer individuals at Cornell, and;

Whereas, the process of “coming out” to roommates may place many queer individuals in hostile or uncomfortable living situation, and;

Whereas, Cornell University and Residential Student Congress is committed to creating and maintaining an atmosphere of diversity and inclusion on this campus, and;

Whereas, Cornell University and Residential Student Congress acknowledges, through their commitment to diversity and inclusion, the needs of all students, and;
Whereas, queer students, despite the University’s commitment to inclusion, still feel unempowered and disenfranchised, are exposed to hate speech, and are disconnected from their cultural heritage due to a lack of administrative support, and;

Whereas, it is essential for queer students to connect with their peers, their heritage, and their community in order to facilitate the development of a strong sense of personal and cultural identity, and;

Whereas, visibility of queer folks is essential to their efforts to dispel myths, shatter stereotypes, and engender a greater feeling of mutual respect and understanding in society at large, and;

Whereas, Cornell University has implemented a gender-inclusive housing policy, which has been successful, and;

Whereas, this gender-inclusive housing policy has not been sufficient in providing inclusive housing options to all queer individuals, and;

Whereas, a queer-inclusive program house would be able to support all queer individuals and be able to supplement the Cornell LGBT Resource Center in providing more dedicated spaces to queer individuals, and;

Whereas, this model of queer-inclusive program houses has been extremely successful at peer institutions including, Dartmouth College and Tufts University, and;

Whereas, currently Vice President Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi and many individuals of the Cornell community are involved in the implementation of the Housing Master Plan, and;

Whereas, the implementation of the Housing Master Plan allows for the strategic implementation of a queer-inclusive program house, and;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Residential Student Congress endorses and wishes to implement the following proposal to create a queer-inclusive program house, and;

Be it further resolved, the creation of the program house be implemented with the consultation of queer individuals including, but not limited to, a representative of Residential Student Congress, the LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large of the Student Assembly, the President and representatives of Haven: the LGBTQ Student Union, queer or ally staff members in Residential and New Student Programs, a representative of the LGBT Resource Center, and anyone else deemed necessary, and;

Be it finally resolved, that copy of this resolution be forwarded to Vice President of Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi, Dean of Students Vijay Pendakur, the Executive Director of Campus and Community Engagement Joseph Burke, Director of Residential and New Student Programs, Lindsay Hansen, and all others deemed important by the Residential Student Congress Executive Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
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*Freshmen Representative, Student Assembly*
*Freshmen Representative, La Asociación Latina*

Savanna Lim ’21
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Caitlin Gleason ’18
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(Reviewed by: Residential Student Congress, 37-0-2, 11/13/2017)