



2023-2024 Session of the Senate

**Senate Resolution No. 12**

**Housing Accommodations for Transgender & Gender  
Non-Conforming Students**

Introduced by

Amogh Varanasi, Duncan New Student Representative, 2023-24

Bruce Hurley, Lovett New Student Representative, 2023-24

Katherine Painter, Brown New Student Representative, 2023-24

Morike Ayodeji, Director of DEI Commission, 2023-2024

Sohani Sandhu, Deputy Director of DEI Commission, 2023-2024

Rose Oyoo, Will Rice DEI Representative, 2023-2024

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

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**WHEREAS,** some transgender and gender non-conforming (GNC) students that matriculate into Rice are uncomfortable with their housing situation due to a lack of accommodations, which can lead to body dysmorphia and/or gender dysphoria;

**WHEREAS,** not every college currently has a contingency plan or the facilities to accommodate alternate housing for transgender and GNC students;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS,** there is a need for improved communication between key stakeholders, specifically the Office of the Dean of Undergraduates, the SAFE office, Housing & Dining, and the residential college coordinators to ensure that matriculating transgender and GNC students are assigned to rooms that cater to their necessary housing accommodations;<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://map.concept3d.com/?id=473#lce/177052s/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://rice.app.box.com/s/31y8figzz4gsrrubcj6z8l8ynro96xj9>

**WHEREAS,** in the past, there have been a few transgender and GNC students who transferred out of their colleges due to a lack of housing accommodations, which puts students through unnecessary and preventable struggles that are mentally taxing;

**WHEREAS,** many students are unaware of the resources available to them post-matriculation and into the semester, such as the SAFE office; which is especially critical for students who do not feel comfortable sharing their gender identity in the New Student Form;

**THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** that the Student Association Senate reaffirms its support for the transgender and GNC communities at Rice University;

**RESOLVED,** that the New Student form is revised, including clear definitions and verbiage describing all-gender, gender-neutral, and other relevant terms for bathroom accommodations. This also includes clarification that the form will remain confidential;

**RESOLVED,** that measures be taken before, during, and after students' arrival so that they might be assigned to colleges that currently suit their necessary accommodations, while prioritizing their comfort and privacy;

**RESOLVED,** that Orientation Week programming emphasizes available resources for students who feel uncomfortable with their housing accommodations;

**RESOLVED,** that the Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming Student Resource Guide is regularly updated, particularly the campus map of gender-neutral bathrooms, and that every college has a publicly available map of their gender-neutral bathrooms;

**RESOLVED,** that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission (DEI) provides each college a list of recommendations to formulate college-specific contingency plans for housing accommodations, also including input from O-Week coordinators, relevant college executive officers, Core team members, and H&D;

**RESOLVED,** that the Student Association Senate urges Rice University to ensure each residential college has the infrastructure to accommodate transgender and GNC students in the future to maximize inclusivity across colleges and maintain the "rich tapestry of traditions, culture, and, most importantly, community" that Rice University promotes.

**Adopted by the Senate on Monday, February 12, 2024**

Alison Qiu,  
President of the Student Association &  
Chair of the Senate

[24 January 2024] INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

[24 January 2024] READ TO UNIVERSITY & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

[24 January 2024] APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

[5 February 2024] READ OUT TO SENATE

[12 February 2024] ADOPTED BY THE SENATE

STATUS: PASSED