



The State University of New York
Student Assembly

Executive Committee

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RESOLUTION

TO: SUNYSA Executive Committee

FROM: Burgandi K. Rakoska, Co-Chair of Committee of Equity and Inclusion, SUNY Fredonia

DATE: March 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Emotional Support Animals In All Residence Halls

Action Requested

That the State University of New York implement a policy wherein students with documented disabilities may live with their documented emotional service animals in a residence hall of their choosing, provided that they meet the residence hall's criteria.

Resolution

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development released an official statement, saying, "Under these laws, rules, policies, or practices must be modified to permit the use of an assistance animal as a reasonable accommodation in housing when its use may be necessary to afford a person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling and/or the common areas of a dwelling." (x); and

Whereas many SUNY campuses have started to respond to the growing demand of emotional support animals, by allowing students with documented disabilities to live in on-campus housing with their documented emotional service animals; and

Whereas at least one SUNY college states that students with disabilities in need of emotional support animals, must live in a specific residence hall, as chosen by the college ; and therefore, be it

Resolved we urge SUNY to respond to these issues by creating a policy, wherein it shall be required that each and every campus investigates the feasibility of providing on-campus housing to allow students with documented disabilities and their documented emotional support animals to live in a residence hall of their choosing, provided that

- The student provides documentation of their disability.
- The student provides documentation of their emotional support animal.
- The student meets the residence hall qualifications (i/e: gender, class standing, etc.)
- The student makes arrangements to care for the service animal.
- The student makes arrangements with their roommates and/or suitemates and/or and/or hallmates and/or housemates.

; and be it finally

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York will forward copies of this resolution to the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Zimpher, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, SUNY student governing bodies and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.