

Senate Resolution 23-10

Senator Hayden Pierce, At-Large  
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Housing  
Senator Wesley Templet, University-Sponsored  
Vice Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Housing  
Senator Brittany Bustillos, Special Interest  
Ad Hoc Committee on Housing  
Senator Riley Littleton, Health and Wellness  
Ad Hoc Committee on Housing  
Senator Hayleigh Lutz, Graduate School  
Ad Hoc Committee on Housing  
Legislative Aide Lillian Prather  
Ad Hoc Committee on Housing

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY SENATE ACKNOWLEDGING AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ONGOING WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON HOUSING.

WHEREAS, after hearing numerous concerns from students about the affordability and quality of both on and off-campus housing, ASB Vice President Mason Greenwald and President Pro Tempore Hannah Watts established the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Housing in April of this year;

WHEREAS, the overarching goals of the Committee on Housing are to ensure affordable, high-quality housing options are available to all University students and to effectively representing the student perspective to relevant leadership;

WHEREAS, members of the Committee on Housing have dedicated much time to various projects and initiatives of which the student body should be aware;

WHEREAS, transparency and accountability are critical to the work of the ASB and its mission “of supporting each and every single student to be prepared for the next season of life by engaging student opinion about the nature of our university and campus and elevating the student voice to campus leadership” (“Mission,” *ASB Website*);

WHEREAS, members of the Committee on Housing have met with 12 University administrators and staff over the course of the summer and fall semester in order to learn more about University services that affect students’ housing experiences and to advocate for student interests;

WHEREAS, members of the Committee on Housing have reviewed various housing plans put forth by the University of Mississippi, such as the 2020-2026 Student Housing Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS, by closely communicating with students and the Department of Student Housing, the Committee on Housing has brought attention to on-campus housing infrastructure in need of maintenance and helped to expedite maintenance requests, such as elevators in Pittman and Martin Halls, stall door locks in Stockard Hall, and ID access scanners in Deaton and Stewart Halls;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing had the privilege to tour various on-campus dormitories and apartments to identify and reflect on areas of improvement that need to be addressed regarding on-campus student housing;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing has met with student Residential Assistants (RAs) to learn more about the RA/CDA system and how it could better serve student employees and residents;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing has been able to connect individual students with the Department of Student Housing and other University and community-provided services related to housing;

WHEREAS, members of the Committee on Housing have met with various student organizations such as Better Together and community providers such as LOU-Home in order to understand barriers to positive housing experiences and to find points of collaboration;

WHEREAS, in collaboration with Ms. Forrest Jenkins of LOU-Home, the Committee on Housing has hosted two renter education events, informing over 25 students of tenant rights, responsibilities, and best practices;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing has made a renter education Zoom recording available on the ASB Instagram LinkTree and website for any student interested in learning more about their rights and responsibilities as a tenant;

WHEREAS, to learn about students' experiences with housing, the Committee on Housing designed a survey and gained approval from the University's Institutional Review Board;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing employed a variety of strategies to distribute the survey to all parts of the student body including through flyers both on and off-campus, registered student organizations, Hotty Toddy TVs, University email notifications, department-wide emails, the Daily Mississippian newspaper, ASB social media, and ASB 365;

WHEREAS, the Student Housing Experience Survey was open from September 21st to October 27th, and 731 total responses were recorded, 372 of which were fully completed;

WHEREAS, Senators and other members of the ASB have attended meetings of the City of Oxford's Affordable Housing Commission, expressing student body support for their work;

WHEREAS, a representative of the Committee on Housing gave a brief report of preliminary survey findings to the aforementioned Affordable Housing Commission at their October 25th meeting;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing is continuing its analysis of the survey data and hopes to publish a final report in early-to-mid December;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing is currently working to help international students by meeting with the Office of Global Engagement and various student organizations to discuss ways to make the housing experience and selection process more accessible, inclusive, and accommodating;

WHEREAS, the Residence Hall Association (RHA), the governing and programming board for all 14 campus residence halls, has become inactive due to lack of student participation, but the organization and its services are still needed;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing is collaborating with the Department of Student Housing to enhance the RHA, exploring options for growth and increased involvement;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing is working closely with the Department of Student Housing to develop a “Frequently Asked Questions” list for potential University housing questions and concerns;

WHEREAS, in the spring semester, the Committee on Housing plans to partner with the Department of Student Housing and Office of Sustainability to foster more sustainability in on-campus living;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing has pioneered an ongoing research initiative to amass leases from off-campus housing communities in an effort to ensure they are student-friendly;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing is researching short-term rental regulations and related court cases in order to become familiar with precedents and explore options for the City of Oxford and its surrounding communities;

WHEREAS, the ASB Senate calls upon University administration to dedicate even more time, attention, and resources to guarantee affordable, high-quality housing for students including upperclassmen, graduate students, international students, married students, student-parents, students in recovery, physically and mentally disabled students, and highly cost-burdened students;

WHEREAS, the ASB Senate underscores the University’s objective to “maintain and strengthen relationships with local, state, and federal elected and appointed officials, with an emphasis on promoting community and economic development” (University of Mississippi Strategic Plan, 2022);

WHEREAS, due to the strong relationship between the local housing demand and University enrollment, the University should collaborate more closely with the the City of Oxford in order to craft policy that leads to increased housing supply while limiting the development of short-term rentals;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing expresses gratitude towards friends and collaborators that have contributed to our work, including but not limited to the following: ASB Advisors Dr. Brent Marsh and Ms. Haley McGlone, Dr. John Yaun of Student Housing, Dr. Laura Martin and Mr.

Dayton Ashby of the Grisham-McLean Institute, Ms. Forrest Jenkins of LOU-Home, and the City of Oxford's Affordable Housing Commission;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Housing strongly encourages and welcomes engagement from students, administrators, faculty, staff, and other members of the LOU community in regards to the work of the committee;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY SENATE RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND SUPPORTS THEIR CONTINUED WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE STUDENT BODY.

Ad Hoc Committee on Housing _____ Committee	<i>Hayden Pierce</i> _____ Committee Chair	11-21-2023 _____ Date
11-28-2023 _____ Date of Introduction	Passed 33-1-1 _____ Action of Student Senate	<i>Sellers Shockley</i> _____ Clerk Signature

Acknowledgment of Senate Presiding Officer:

<i>Mason Greenwald</i> _____ Vice President Mason Greenwald Senate Presiding Officer	11-30-2023 _____ Date
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Approval of Associated Student Body Elected President:

<i>Sara Austin Welch</i> _____ Sara Austin Welch ASB President	12-03-2023 _____ Date
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Acknowledgment of Campus Administration:

*Brent Marsh*

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Dr. Brent Marsh, Ph.D.  
Dean of Students

*Charlotte Pegues*

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Dr. Charlotte Pegues, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Receipt of Chancellor's Office:

*Glenn Boyce*

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Dr. Glenn Boyce, Ed.D.  
University Chancellor

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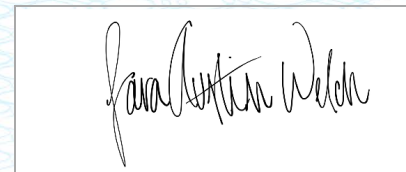
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### Glenn Boyce

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