

**R F2020.02**

**A Resolution Adopting a Government Statement in Solidarity with University of Michigan ResStaff**

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

September 16, 2020

Sponsored by: Chayton Fivecoat, Tyler Watt, Selena Bazzi, Kathryn McCaughey, Joseph Lobodzinski, Anna Colvin, Josiah Walker, Zackariah Farah, Gaurie Gunasekaran, Timothy Dalrymple, Sophia Rich, Sarah Salino, Danny Hwang, Jacob Cohen, Caroline Theuerkauf, Mary McKillop, Natalie Simmons, M. Riley List, Suki Zhao, Alli Goodsell, Claudia McLean, Gabriela Torres

**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”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG values civil discourse and peaceful means to attain changes in social situations, especially those that affect students on our own campus; and,

**Whereas**, more than two hundred students are employed as Residential Staff (hereafter ResStaff) at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor; and,

**Whereas**, ResStaff workers include both Resident Advisors (RAs) and Diversity Peer Educators (DPEs), who work in fifteen dormitories throughout the campus; and,

**Whereas**, more than one hundred members of the ResStaff at the University of Michigan have issued their demands for better treatment by University Housing amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**Whereas**, ResStaff members were issued limited personal protective equipment, have been asked to come into close contact with COVID-19-positive residents, all without receiving hazard pay and the protection offered by a collective bargaining body; and,

**Whereas**, University Housing has been slow to respond to the demands of the strikers, and has outright refused to grant or address some of their demands (including hazard pay and unionization); and,

**Whereas**, Central Student Government has adopted similar stances supporting the GEO #3550 members on strike<sup>2</sup>; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government, Article II

<sup>2</sup> “CSG Solidarity with GEO and Their Decision to Authorize a Labor Strike”  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18i1w2oi6JAz2pmkk8dEdOnfbO4rIpmEI/view>.

**Whereas**, it is our hope that other student governments on campus will follow suit and adopt similar statements of support; and,

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the statement attached in Appendix A be adopted as the position of LSA SG on the ResStaff strike; and,

**Be it therefore resolved**, that LSA SG looks forward to the speedy resolution of the strike with the acceptance of the strikers' demands.

Appendix A:



## LSA Student Government Stands in Solidarity with University of Michigan ResStaff's Demands for a Safe and Equitable Workplace

September 16, 2020

Fellow University of Michigan Students,

LSA Student Government stands in solidarity with University of Michigan Residential Staff members on strike for a safe and equitable workplace. Across campus, Resident Advisors (RAs) and Diversity Peer Educators (DPEs) have mobilized to create positive change in their communities. Their demands are based in their vested interest in promoting the health and safety of their residents, and their very real concerns about the lack of support given to them by the University over the past several weeks.

The courage of those on strike cannot be overstated. Without a union or collective action organization, they stand as individuals united. They are joined by strikers from Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) #3550 and Michigan Dining in their marches and picket lines. They stand for improved access to COVID-19 testing, enhanced personal protective equipment, improved conditions for quarantining and isolating students, and adherence to policies prohibiting Residential Staff members from being compelled to come in contact with students who may be positive with COVID-19.

We encourage all members of the Michigan community to offer support to those striking at this time. We applaud those students and community members who have sent food and supplies to students in the undersupplied quarantine dorms, and appreciate the words of support from numerous student organizations of campus directed toward these groups fighting for health and safety. To the students living in the dorms, we encourage you to support your striking RAs and DPEs, as well as the GEO #3550 and Michigan Dining. To members of University administration, we encourage you to consider the reasonable demands of the strikers, and consider the word's of our University's mission statement:

“to serve the people of Michigan and the world through preeminence in creating, communicating, preserving and applying knowledge, art, and academic **values, and in developing leaders and citizens who will challenge the present and enrich the future.**”<sup>3</sup>

In Solidarity,

LSA Student Government

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<sup>3</sup> Emphasis added. See <https://president.umich.edu/about/mission/#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20the%20University,present%20and%20enrich%20the%20future.>