

**Resolution SS1112-18****February 15, 2012**DEPARTMENT ON GENDER ISSUES  
KATIE ROSE, DIRECTOR**A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE UNIVERSITY'S APPROVAL OF A GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, The Student Activities Office's mission statement reads: "The Office also fosters an environment which values differences, the freedom of expression and the holistic development of students"; the recognition of a gay-straight alliance would foster these ideals;

Whereas, A gay-straight alliance student organization would seek to "to further embody Notre Dame's Spirit of Inclusion, in accordance with the Catholic Church's Doctrine of Universal Acceptance, and to address aversive homophobia towards Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning persons and their Allies";

Whereas, No undergraduate student organization or campus group is equipped or intended to program solely for support, awareness and education of LGBTQ issues on campus, especially community building between LGBTQ and straight students on campus;

Whereas, Notre Dame's LGBTQ students need a place of peer support on campus;

Whereas, An application for a student organization addressing LGBTQ issues has been rejected by the Student Activities Office for fifteen years;

Whereas, All organizations on campus that focus on LGBTQ issues are directed by faculty and staff, and an undergraduate student organization can influence students in a unique and positive way that administrative efforts cannot;

Whereas, There have been incidents of prejudice on campus, including hateful slurs, derogatory football chants and a comic insinuating homophobic violence; and the University of Notre Dame has consistently ranked in the top six on the Princeton Review Top 20 LGBT-Unfriendly Colleges and Universities; and

Whereas, Father Jenkins has called the entire University, including the Student Activities Office, to be a healing, unifying, and enlightening force; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Student Activities Office and the Administration of the University of Notre Dame approve any application for a student organization which seeks to establish a gay-straight alliance; and

*Resolved*, That the Student Senate respectfully requests that the University offer a public statement addressing its decision regarding the application of a LGBTQ and ally student support organization.

