

Resolution SS1213-16

April 25, 2012

SEAN LONG, SENATOR

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF RESIDENCE AND HOUSING  
RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO REMOVE LOFTS FROM ST. EDWARD'S  
HALL**

Whereas, the University's on-campus housing system is lauded for its commitment to fostering individual identity, pride, and tradition amongst its 29 residence halls;

Whereas, Wooden student-built lofts are an integral part of St. Edwards' dorm identity and tradition, a bonding ritual for its residents, and a practical way of creating 35% more living space in the rooms;

Whereas, Decades of lofted beds on campus have demonstrated clearly that they do not result in an increase in accidents or injuries;

Whereas, The proposed new modular furniture, scheduled to be implemented by the 2013-2014 academic year, will allow substantially less space within dorm rooms, and in some cases, force triple rooms to become doubles;

Whereas, The Office of ~~Residence Life~~ and Housing's decision contradicts its commitment to "developing and maintaining housing policies and procedures which provide a positive on-campus living experience for resident students and summer guests";

Whereas, Current and former residents of St. Edward's hall have expressed discontent by writing a dorm-wide letter to ORLH signed by 95 residents, publishing two Viewpoints and one editorial board article in *The Observer*, reaching out to Notre Dame alumni and parents to contact ORLH, and conducting a petition signed by 200 members of the student body; and

Whereas, This isolated decision towards St. Edward's hall for the sake of dorm uniformity has larger implications to reduce dorm identity across campus through future ORLH policies; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the undergraduate student body is concerned over the Office of Housing's mandate to remove all lofts from St. Edward's Hall by the 2013-2014 academic year and supports the residents' contention that lofts are an integral part of dorm life;

*Resolved*, That the student body urges the Office of ~~Residence Life~~ and Housing to fully reconsider its decision to remove lofts from St. Edward' Hall and work with the residents of St. Edward' Hall to reach a decision agreeable to both parties; and

*Resolved*, That the student body advises the Office of Housing to consult the residents of the hall(s) that its actions directly affect before reaching future housing decisions —especially in cases in which the decisions have great consequences to residence communities and their traditions.