

Gender Inclusive Housing – Pilot Program

Attached is the document that was forwarded on to OSU Vice Provost for Student Affairs Larry Roeper by the ASOSU Queer Affairs Task Force in August.

Larry advised the QA Taskforce Director last week that he has vetted this proposal with OSU Provost and Executive Vice President Sabah Randhawa and has approval to move forward.

While the proposal calls for GI housing in Bloss and West - I recommend the following action: Identify a wing in Bloss as our Gender Inclusive Housing area for Fall 2007.

Possible Marketing Message:

Bloss Hall is a suite style living environment where 2 to 4 students share two rooms and a common bath/shower facility. Many of the floors in Bloss hall focus on the upper-division student. Bloss has **Single rooms, Mixed gender** two room suites for 2 students, and **Single Gender** 2 room suites for 4 students.

As of Fall 2007 UHDS will reserve rooms in Bloss as **Gender Inclusive**. Mixed Gender and Transgender housing options will be available in designated areas in Bloss Hall. Gender Inclusive Housing options will provide accommodations for students who do not identify with a specific gender, as well as accommodations for students who wish to live with another student regardless of gender.

Students who choose to live in the Upper division floors in Bloss are afforded a higher level of independence, access to programs and activities that are focused on Sophomore and above interests, connection to the academy via a live-in faculty member, as well as a full complement of staff including a hall director and Student Resident Advisors.

Because of the nature of Gender Inclusive Housing, First Year students may not apply for Housing in the Gender Inclusive Floors in Bloss – however, first year gender variant students may be eligible for gender inclusive housing due to safety issues regarding their gender identity. Students who would like gender inclusive accommodations will complete a request utilizing the UHDS housing application.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is highly regarded and information regarding gender identity is only shared on a need-to-know basis with appropriate housing staff. Appropriate staff members include, but are not limited to, the resident's RA, Hall Director, and Area Complex Director, Associate/Assistant Directors for Residential Education, Housing Reservations staff, and OSU LGBT Services Coordinator. Every effort will be made to limit this list.

Pilot Program - Gender Inclusive Housing

August, 2006

Overview:

In response to student interest and need, and in anticipation of program success, it is proposed that University Housing and Dining Services provide a pilot program of housing options that allow housing accommodations that is not restricted by gender.

Logistical Elements:

- Gender Inclusive Housing options will provide accommodations for students who do not identify with a specific gender, and provide accommodations for students who wish to live with another student regardless of gender.
- Gender Inclusive Housing options will be available in Bloss and West Halls given their suite configuration. Recontracting and transfer students would be eligible for placement.
- First year gender variant students may be eligible for gender inclusive housing due to safety issues regarding their gender identity. Students who would like gender inclusive accommodations will complete a request utilizing the UHDS housing application.
- Housing placement priority will be given to gender variant students in designated 'Gender Inclusive Housing' accommodations.

Endorsements:

- ASOSU Queer Affairs Task Force
- Pride Center
- SOL
- Steven Leider – Coordinator of LBGT Outreach and Services
- UHDS Departmental Leadership Group
- Jackie Balzer – Dean of Student Life

Timeline for Implementation:

Dates	Activity
May 2006 – August 2006:	UHDS/OSU discussion and research
August 2006 – September 2006:	Formal proposal from ASOSU Queer Affairs Task Force to OSU Administration
October 2007:	Seek approval from Dr. Larry Roper
January 2007:	Implement for 2007-2008 room recontracting/selection assignments
September 2007:	Implement in West and Bloss Halls
January 2008:	Evaluate program benefits and challenges

Background:

The following schools have a transgender or co-ed option:

U C Riverside

University Of Colorado

Ithaca

University of San Francisco

Oberlin

Tufts University

University Hawaii at Hilo

Portland State has allowed co-ed roommates for quite sometime. While they have primarily apartment accommodations, they do not ask who someone is “rooming” with.

Washington State University will have co-ed apartments on campus starting next fall.

Brown University

Haverford College

Hampshire College

Swarthmore College

University of Southern Maine

University of Pennsylvania

Sarah Lawrence College

Cornell University

Links to pertinent articles/web sites, along with a brief description of each:

USA Today article about gender-neutral housing:

http://www.usatoday.com/life/lifestyle/2004-06-21-lgbt-gender-neutral-housing_x.htm

Article discussing roommate assignments at Stanford:

http://daily.stanford.edu/tempo?page=content&id=17159&repository=0001_article

University of Southern Maine introduces gender-neutral housing:

<http://20below.maintoday.com/press/pph/040927housing.shtml>

A Blog that shows an article about Cornell developing pilot "house" for gender-neutral housing:

http://www.dailypennsylvanian.com/vnews/display.v/ART/41f8a63180729?in_archive=1

Gender-neutral housing at UPenn:

<http://www.universitybusiness.com/page.cfm?p=551>

UC Riverside policy about transgender housing:

<http://www.transgenderlaw.org/college/guidelines.htm>

Transgender Law Institute has a page about gender-neutral housing in colleges:

<http://www.nyunews.com/news/campus/9452.html>