



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

15th Session – February 20, 2023

GPSG

D.R. #13

Sponsor: Iowa Student Bar Association Delegate Rhianna Lightle on behalf of International Affairs Director Ya'u Adamu
GPSG Action Passed Failed/Tabled

A RESOLUTION

Encouraging the Division of Student Life to support International Student Advisory Board advocacy for emergency housing for international students and scholars

Section 1: Short Title

This resolution may be cited as the “Resolution in Support of emergency housing for international students and scholars.”

Section 2: Discussion

WHEREAS, Arrival in any new place with no one known except the ISSS portal and UI host faculty (for postdocs) can be extremely challenging for international students.

WHEREAS, everyone reads the information on the webpages, tries to register things but most of them volatilize the moment they are in a new airport with their non-working SIM cards from the home-countries.

WHEREAS, this year the International Student Advisory Board would like to advocate for emergency housing for international students and scholars. When we say emergency housing we mean,

- a) immediate place to stay at least for the first one-week of arrival,
- b) a secure place to stay between the lease gaps.

WHEREAS, one short term housing option is Iowa House Hotel (IHH) which was open to students during their lease gaps, but the problem arises when the rooms are not always available. People coming from different countries find it difficult to go for early bookings as most of them suffer because of the delayed visa status and uncertain travel dates till the end.

WHEREAS, the ISSS webpage is full of information, but the students/scholars are not aware of the legal troubles they can get themselves into by right-away signing the lease in the US in a hurry to get a place to stay. The emails about the non-availability of a house on arrival are very stressful to deal with.

WHEREAS, the Graduate and Professional Student Government has the responsibility to advocate for students who have been harmed by prevailing systems and institutions.

WHEREAS, the interests of the student body of the University of Iowa, should be reflected in the priorities of our representatives in University of Iowa;

WHEREAS, Testimony of international students indicated that different issues might impact different international population, such as access to credit card might not be common, comfortability for staying in non-university sponsored hotel initially, etc.

WHEREAS, there are several suggested solutions that could be implemented to help international students find emergency housing. This includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Keeping at least five to ten dorm rooms vacant throughout the year for emergency situations- for students and post-docs arriving in peak of season- usually July/Aug.
- b) Assistance for paying the security deposit, which has risen to 2-months security in many apartments, such as loan (with minimum interest rates, if necessary) to be paid in installments at the earliest convenience.
- c) IHH accepting cash or stay to be billed in UI bill.
- d) The eating joints in IMU or the dining halls in campus to be billed in UI bill.
- e) Student volunteers with valid driving license for U-Haul to get things moving during lease-gaps.

Section 3: Action

Be it Resolved, the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) at the University of Iowa recognizes that international students and scholars need an immediate place to stay at least for the first one-week of arrival and more awareness about the lease gaps asset to the University of Iowa, the State of Iowa, and the country as a whole.

Therefore, be it Resolved, GPSG will strive to for emergency housing for international students and scholars.

Section 4: Enactment

THEREFORE, be it enacted by the University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government upon the signature of the President.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

Grace Bryant
Cabinet Director

APPROVED:

Amber D. Crow
GPSG President

February 21, 2023

Date