

SR020512

A Resolution to form a Committee that will aid in saving Off-Campus House Signs

Dino Bagnola, Secretary for Off-Campus Affairs

Author

Bobbe Burke, Director of the Student Community Relations Committee

Julie Buczynski, Off-Campus Senator

Evan Carpenter, Secretary of Academic Affairs

Michael Felice, Off-Campus Senator

James Ferguson, Off-Campus Senator

Marc Gelpi, Off-Campus Senator

C.J. Goril, Off-Campus Senator

Will Harrelson, Havighurst Hall Senator

Erin Horan, Off-Campus Senator

Dana Kerns, Secretary to the Executive Cabinet

Jessica Kline, Off-Campus Senator

Ben Lingeman, Wells and Bishop Senator

Karyna Lopez, Off-Campus Senator

Mohammed Misbah, Off-Campus Senator

Nick Petrone, President Pro Tempore

Steve Rayo, Vice President for Student Services

Meg Ryan, Vice President for Student Services Elect

Jens Sutmoller, Morris Hall Senator

Debbie Tschofen, Friend of ASG and dedicated OTOer

Stephanie Simon, ASG Executive Vice President

Sponsors

Submitted to the Student Senate

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Whereas: The Oxford City Council will be updating its Sign Code Ordinance later this spring. The Oxford Tenant's Organization will be making a presentation to the Oxford Planning Commission March 8, 2005.

Whereas: The Oxford Planning Commission, which will be making a recommendation to the City Council, will be looking for student led initiatives to help handle complaints regarding "offensive" house signs.

Whereas: In 1998, some off campus students "tested the waters" creating "offensive house signs." In response, a student led group, approached these houses. As a result, most of these houses either modified or removed these house signs.

Whereas: In 2004-2005, the City Council of Oxford is observing a similar trend regarding "offensive" house signs and has been receiving a large number of complaints from citizens of the Oxford community.

Whereas: In some cases, the Oxford Police have visited off-campus houses to request/order the occupants to take their "offensive" house signs down, in most cases speaking to the landlords as well as the tenants.

Whereas: A permanent student led committee dealing with house sign content would help curb any difficulties and promote healthy problem solving between students and city officials.

Therefore Let it Be Resolved: A standing committee shall be formed under, “SECTION 09.401.B”, of the Standing Committees of ASG. This committee shall hereon be referred to as “The House Signs Committee”.

Further it Be Resolved: “The House Signs Committee” will evaluate the content of house signs at the beginning of each academic year and periodically throughout the academic year.

Further it Be Resolved: 09.401.”B” The House Signs Committee

Shall be chaired by the Secretary for Off-Campus Affairs

1. The Secretary for Off-Campus Affairs will appoint two off-campus senators to “The House Signs Committee”. “The House Signs Committee” shall also consist of a representative from the Inter-fraternity Council and the Panhellenic Association. These representatives shall be the Community Relations Chairs of the Executive Board of these two respective Greek organizations or representatives appointed by these Community Relations Chairs. Next, a member of the Student Services committee shall sit on “The House Signs Committee”. This person shall be appointed by the Vice President of Student Services and will serve to bring a student legal perspective to the group. Other student members may be added by the chair as “The House Sign Committee” evolves, to gather a wide range of opinions and input. The “House Signs Committee” will be advised by the Chair of the Student Community Relations Committee or an appointee thereof. Members shall be approved by the student senate.
2. “The House Signs Committee” ~~shall establish rules governing how to determine what is “offensive” to the Oxford community, so as to be able to~~ **may** evaluate house signs and suggest appropriate actions for modification or removal. Each active member shall have one vote on all matters or issues determined by the group as requiring a vote.

Rationale: The reason I wrote this bill is to show the City Council that there is a student concern, more specifically, a student government concern for house signs to continue to be a part of our student culture. This bill to create a “House Signs Committee” is not meant as an avenue for the removal of house signs but is meant to be a neutral bridge between the students, and the concerns of the Oxford City Council members, who receive complaints about various house signs often. It is assumed that in most cases, students would rather be visited first by a student led group, that is concerned about the students house signs as a collective group, rather than police officers or other city officials.

