

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAR-61016

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Sponsor(s): Pres. Arriaga, VP. Craig, Chief of Staff. Gonzalez, Speaker Ballesteros, Leg. Chief of Staff Cockrell, Chair Awan, Chair Bivens, Sen. Gerling-Perez, Sen. Hubbard, Sen. Jacobs, Sen. James, Sen. Jones, Sen. Kariuki, Sen. Kasongo, Sen. Leadon, Sen. Ledezma, Sen. Luong, Sen. Martinez, Sen. Otero, Sen. Ramirez, Sen. Salinas, Sen. Williford

Committee: Student Life

Draft: First

Support for the LGBTQ+ community at the University of Houston

Whereas, the UH Gay Liberation Front was established in 1968 and was one of the first LGBTQ+-led organizing efforts at the University of Houston¹;

Whereas, in 1975 LGBTQ+ activism made strides in the state of Texas as the Gay Activist Alliance was recognized as the first gay student organization in the Lone Star State¹;

Whereas, in 2009 the Women's Studies Program introduced the LGBT Studies minor to the academic curriculum, recognizing the importance of LGBT people and their contributions to society, this program was later changed to be called Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies minor; ¹

Whereas, in 2010 Lorraine Schroder became the founding Director of the LGBT Resource Center at the University of Houston, she later led the center to participate in Houston's gay pride celebration, where faculty, staff, and students partook in the Houston Pride Parade; ¹

Whereas, in 2015 the center officially changed its name to the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, and provided a safe space for LGBTQ+ faculty, staff, students, and allies to

¹ <https://thedailycougar.com/2024/06/24/a-look-into-queer-history-at-uh/>

learn, grow, and discuss important issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community at the University of Houston; ¹

Whereas, in May of 2023, the Texas Legislature passed SB17, forcing UH to shut down its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Center and its LGBTQ+ Resource Center, and thereby eradicating necessary support for students of gender and sexual minorities; ²

Whereas, in 2023 the Center for Student Advocacy and Community opened with a goal to "reduces barriers that inhibit academic and personal success by identifying areas of need, providing connections to resources, and supporting student-led programs and initiatives that strengthen our community"; ³

Whereas, the student body has looked to the Center for Student Advocacy and Community to regain some of the support lost due to SB17; ⁴

Whereas, the University of Houston student organizations have been instrumental in bridging the gap between students and resources that the LGBTQ+ Resource Center once provided, many students are still frustrated with the lack of safe spaces and support provided by the university; ⁵

Whereas, the University of Houston prides itself on being one of the most diverse public institutions in the state of Texas, while failing to provide meaningful support to its diverse student body, this is exemplified by its lack of official and substantial support for its LGBTQ+ students during the official LGBTQ+ month in 2024;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

The Student Government Association recognizes how critical the need to support all LGBTQ+ students and community members, to have a safe and inclusive learning environment, across the University of Houston;

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Association will continue to be a place where LGBTQ+ students amplify their voices to advocate for their needs;

² <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/04/19/texas-senate-dei-universities/>

³ <https://uh.edu/csac/>

⁴ <https://thedailycougar.com/2023/09/19/center-for-student-advocacy-and-community-replaces-lgbtq-diversity-resources/>

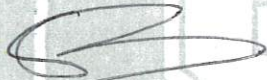
⁵ <https://thedailycougar.com/2023/10/30/students-frustration-surrounding-dei-resources-grow/>

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Association vows to continue to highlight the importance of LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and community members;

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Association will commit to working with the Center for Student Advocacy and Community to uplift their goals and further address the needs of all students who are looking for strength in community at the University of Houston;

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Association thanks the student-led newspaper, The Daily Cougar, and journalist Regan Grant, for its recognition of the rich LGBTQ+ history at the University of Houston in their article titled *"A look into queer history at UH"*;

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Student Government Association of the University of Houston is dedicated to the continuation of supporting LGBTQ+ students and community members, recognizing the importance of highlighting LGBTQ+ individuals at the University of Houston, and honoring the legacy of LGBTQ+ alumni who have contributed to our vibrant community.



Sebastian Ballesteros
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 7-17-2024