



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

Resolution 31-28

A Resolution Regarding A Safe Word Program to Prevent Sexual Assault at Residence Halls

Authored by: Kat Barker, President of Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity

Sponsored by: Senator Jessica Douglas, Campus Life for Access and Opportunity; Senator Tony Thawanyarat, Terry College of Business; Senator Anderson Felt, At-Large; Senator Sabina Ashurova, First-Year; Senator Landon Clark, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; Senator Nimisha Vasadani, College of Pharmacy; Senator Vinu Eranezhath, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; Senator Patrick Femia, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, Senator Rachel Flowers, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; Senator Samuel Bryant, School of Public and International Affairs; Senator Caitlin Franchini, College of Education; Senator Jan Joho, At-Large; Senator Allison Fine, Access & Opportunity; Senator Huzefa Husein, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; Senator Zane Placie, Terry College of Business; Senator Jessica Pasquarello, At-Large

WHEREAS, students are at higher risk for sexual assault during the first few months of their first and second semesters of college¹; and,

WHEREAS, more than half of the reported instances of sexual assault on UGA's Campus for 2015 and 2016 occurred at University residence halls²; and,

WHEREAS, the true prevalence of on-campus sexual assault remains unknown due to the overwhelming number of instances that go unreported; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Georgia requires first-year students to reside in on-campus residence halls for at least one full academic year; and,

¹ United States Dept. of Health and Human Services. Office on Women's Health. "Sexual Assault on College Campuses." 2017. womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/sexual-assault-and-rape/college-sexual-assault

² UGA Police Department. "2016 UGA Main Campus Statistics." *UGA Safe and Secure Crime Statistics*, 2017, safeandsecure.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018-uga-safe-and-secure-2016-main-campus-statistics.pdf.

WHEREAS, 154 signatures from students, faculty, and parents signaling support for such a campaign demonstrates the demand for such a program³; and,

WHEREAS, restaurants and bars that have instituted “Safe Word” drinks have successfully prevented instances of sexual assault and have provided a safer environment for those at risk⁴; and,


WHEREAS, 73% of LGBTQIA+ college students experience sexual harassment or abuse. Of those reported, more than 6% of LGBTQIA+ college students change their school or major as a result of their experience.⁵; and,

WHEREAS, college students of color and those who identify as transgender are far more likely to experience sexual assault in college than the rest of their peers⁶; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Georgia owes a degree of transparency and accountability to its students for safe conditions in the facilities where students are housed; and,

WHEREAS, implementation of such a program would require minimal resources or funds on behalf of the University;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 31th administration of the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body, urges the University of Georgia to work with Campus Residence Halls to establish a Safe Word program that would allow students to safely communicate with desk assistants and residence hall advisors when they need assistance leaving a dangerous situation.



Ammishaddai Grand-Jean, President
Student Government Association



Charlene Marsh, Vice President
Student Government Association

³ Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity, UGA Chapter. “Establishing a “Safe Word” in the residence halls at UGA.” www.change.org/p/university-of-georgia-housing-establishing-a-safe-word-in-the-residence-halls-at-uga

⁴Samuelson, Kate. “Just Ask for Angela: The Bars Using Codewords to Help People Escape Dangerous Dates.” *Time Magazine*, 21 Feb 2017, <http://time.com/4668756/ask-for-angela-angel-shots-bars-safety/>.

⁵ Hill, Catherine, and Elena Silva. *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*. American Association of University Women Educational Foundation, Dec. 2005, www.aauw.org/files/2013/02/drawing-the-line-sexual-harassment-on-campus.pdf.

⁶Coulter, Robert W. S., and Susan R. Rankin. “College Sexual Assault and Campus Climate for Sexual- and Gender-Minority Undergraduate Students.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 2017.