General Assembly Meeting: Month Day, Year

Agenda:
Opening of the Meeting: Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. Fight song and role call
2. Open Forum
   a. Jenna: WSA is an opportunity. I offer my support.
   b. Madison: Wesleyan lacks spaces where diverse opinions are welcome. Out discussion inferred that people in favor of the greek system were “pro-rape.”
3. Discussion on fraternities (About 40-50 non-WSA individuals present)
   a. Jason Shatz reads the first resolution (Resolution A), “The Future Role of Greek Organizations in the Wesleyan Community”.
   b. Jenna Starr reads the second resolution (Resolution B), “Recommended Housing Policy Changes Concerning Greek Organizations”.
   c. Nicole Updegrove: Clarifies that the decision on the resolution has no binding power. Merely a recommendation.
   d. Andrew Trexler: To make it easier for everyone, the resolution entitled “The Future Role of Greek Organizations in the Wesleyan Community” will be Resolution A and “Recommended Housing Policy Changes Concerning Greek Organizations” will be Resolution B.
   e. Gretchen LaBonte: Let’s have a respectful dialogue. Who would like to speak?
   f. Chloe Murtagh: This conversation is about sexual assault. It is not about individuals. It is about spaces and environments that allow others to think that these values that objectifies women. These spaces promote this culture and radiate it -- allowing others on campus to also believe these behaviors are acceptable. These resolutions shown will not prevent sexual assault on campus. This conversation has been going on and no fraternity has taken initiative on this issue to make an incredible reform in this campus. The only way is to completely eradicate residential all-male fraternities.
   g. Mari Jarris: There is a power dynamic that makes women feel unsafe and objectified. It’s easy to look at this as a policy change, but please consider the other side and what it means to have your life changed through sexual assault. Let’s think about sexual assault and what it consists of. This isn’t something surface reforms can address, which is why I support Resolution B. (on behalf of Nicki Softness’ 14): I decided to apply based on great PsiU alums so opposing
fraternities is not easy for me. Wes lacks spaces for equal interaction between genders. That’s why I support Resolution B. Co-education is the only way to ensure safety of myself and my sister, who is coming in the fall.

h. Danny Blinderman’s statement: the time to avoid responsibility is over. We waited for them to reform. At some point, we need to put our foot down and say this cannot go on. To the fraternities, it is time to change.

i. Mari Jarris: For many women, myself included, frats are not safe spaces to be. There is a power dynamic that makes women feel unsafe and feel objectified. It is easy to look at this as a policy change and consider the losses that will occur. But please consider the other side. I think we need to think about the problem of sexual assault. I do believe this needs a cultural change. That is why I am supporting resolution B.

j. Ryden Nelson: I agree with everything said so far. Resolution A lacks punishment structure and a way to enforce frats that don’t comply. In resolution B, there are clear repercussions.

k. Ben Marvin-Vanderryn: I am in support of resolution A. We’ve had a time in this university where the frats were outside of the system and not accepted as spaces in the university. I think resolution A takes important steps towards the reforms we need. Resolution B might only serve to isolate these. Frats may be a good structure for us to form reform. We have to, instead of looking at what hasn’t happened, but what we can force to happen. In Resolution B, it might isolate the university’s message if we are pushing these reforms out.

l. Mari Jarris: Michael Roth did put a clause for enforcement in resolution A.

m. Ben Marvin-Vanderryn: It didn’t happen the last time it happened and I just want to see that specific plan.

n. Jason Shatz: I am sponsoring Resolution A. The program housing status was only recently conferred upon the fraternities. Resolution A provides a more holistic approach to the sexual assault problem. We want to emphasize bettering our response strategies to sexual assaults. We have to consider major changes that may occur if Resolution B were implemented. The fraternity spaces are some of the few spaces where freshmen may feel comfortable going to experience social life on campus. If we make a radical shift, what will happen to the state of social life on campus? Will it improve, and if so, how?

o. Sadasia McCutchen: I agree with what has been said, but I prefer resolution B because of points 6 and 7, which create a point person. That person is not a pledge. It is important that person not be a pledge because pledges shouldn’t police other pledges.

p. Jacob Musinsky: To Jason, Resolution B would not inhibit social life at fraternities.
q. Matt Leibowitz: I’m the social justice chair. I support Resolution A because of point 3. We took a seven week training for bystander intervention and I think that was a great tool. The University of Michigan put together a resolution similar to Resolution A based on the socio-ecological model of intervention. The idea of making sure and holding organizations accountable and have their own people more trained in this issue and being the push in making the change will be a good model. I think we can create productive change on campus.

r. Nicole Updegrove: Ben, I agree that when Beta was unincorporated it was a safety risk. If the university was removed status, it would be accompanied by a policy enforcing safe behavior there. To Jason, many feel uncomfortable in fraternity spaces; if we co-educate, more would feel comfortable. If they lose program housing status, the buildings will be put on the market, the University will buy them, and they will become general program houses. To Matt’s point, training helps, but doesn’t change the dynamic of gendered spaces on campus.

s. Yiyang Wang: I support Resolution B but also making frats open to any gender identification. As long as frats and sexual assault exist, there are people that can be held accountable. It’s hard to hold someone responsible in sports teams. It’s hard to understand why people support a structure that supports male dominance. Frats reinforce the idea of giving men more power. Wesleyan used to be a male-only school but we’re open to all genders now, and I think we’re doing fine. I think we can do the same for frats.

t. Mari Jarris: I wanted to address something that has been said a lot: the social loss. I just want to explain the losses right now for many people. You can choose to participate. You can choose to go to the frats and potentially get sexually assaulted or not go to frats.

u. Scott Elias: Rape is repugnant. When we talk about gender, we’re referring to social interactions not the people who live in the house. Resolution B is unrealistic because Sexual Assault exists in female and co-educational spaces on campus. I think Resolution B is unrealistic. Resolution A is more realistic because it reforms the existing structure and holds them accountable. We can’t ignore the issue of historical precedent and tradition; it is real and must be considered.

v. Ben Marvin-Vanderryn: I completely agree with Scott. I think that Wesleyan is a very diverse community and within that community, we should allow that guys can have all-guy groups. I think the idea to have more co-educational communities is wrong. I wanted to ask Nicole, what measures could Roth enact to keep people out of Beta?

w. Nicole Updegrove: They did it before, and Beta chose to join program housing instead. Resolution B doesn’t say you can’t have all-male groups; all-male groups just shouldn’t have complete control over social capital.
x. Ellen Paik: I’m leaning toward A because B is too radical. Resolution B exaggerates dominance of Frats on campus. There would be cultural and historical loss as well as social loss on campus. Getting rid of sexual assault on campus is more than getting rid of these houses; we need holistic reform.

y. Bruno Machiavelo: I like Resolution A in the sense that they are all positive measures. But I don’t like it in the sense that I don’t think the culture is there in order for these changes to actually work. I think the story mentioned last time that a bystander intervention trainer [name withheld] was not respected when she tried to help these frats. I would go for Resolution A if frats can prove to me that they can actually respect the people who will try to help them out. I wanted to build off of this and suggest that this might be a good time to take action with Residential Life. The RAs can take a role on being less judicial to make these spaces more safe.

z. Raechel Rosen: I think it’s about time that the people in these spaces where things happen to take action and actually take real action. I have nothing against Psi U. I tried to pledge at Psi U but I wasn’t allowed because they advocated for brotherhood.

aa. Rosy Capron: Our university is complicit as long as they don’t provide alternatives. Senior houses aren’t mandated to have an open door, so we need other spaces that are open and equal. The University needs to promote social interaction in equal spaces.

bb. Yael: The fact that people feel unsafe in these places is something that is really important. You have to change the system, and Resolution A doesn’t do anything to change the system, only the culture surrounding the system. Resolution B does, from many different angles. All-male spaces are negative because it displays power, while all female space can be necessary and empowering. Resolution B gives us a chance to think about the role of program houses. This isn’t a time for realism, because these issues are so personal to many people. This is a time for radicalism.

c. Ethan: I just wanted to say something about emotional consistency with supporters of Resolution A who say that they are committed to making spaces better for women but also do not go behind the idea of being co-educational. What are you really afraid of?

dd. Chloe Murtagh: Radical reform is realistic. Sexual assault happens everywhere, but it does happen more in some places. Radical reform is the only reform appropriate for this situation. To say that coeducational fraternity is a loss of culture, a loss of social capital, a loss of tradition is literally weighing the comparison of the loss of sexual assaults occurring in these spaces. [note: ask Chloe to read over]
ee. Rachel Kaly: I support Resolution B. According to a study by Boswell, sexual assaults are 3 times more likely to be perpetuated by frat members. Hazing practices encourages binge drinking and increases assault behavior. Co-education and exposure will help people be more sensitive and less likely to commit sexual assault. The sexual assault arguments are much stronger than history and tradition.

ff. Jason Shatz: There are some aspects of rape culture that are not limited to frats and extend to senior houses, dorms, etc. We can make some simple but radical reforms there too, like turning on the lights at parties and enforcing fire code. Aside from the co-education mandate in Resolution B, the two resolutions are reconcilable, and we should treat them as such.

gg. Alton Wang: I feel like this conversation has brought up a lot of strong points but it might be going in a circle. I keep hearing comments about how rape culture is not only limited to frats. I know that’s true. Resolution B understands that fully. Resolution B takes a step on seeing something that is systematic. I think Resolution B is useful in addressing these issues. I don’t think that host training and bystander intervention can go far enough. We can tackle this issue as a step that will tackle the rest of the culture on campus.

hh. Nicole Updegrove: To Scott’s point that co-educating would not stop sexual assault, that’s true, but sexual assault is more likely in a house of men trying to get with women. Bringing women in changes the way you talking about sex and consent. Integration causes real cultural shift. In terms of time line - we’ve waited long enough for sexual assaults to stop occurring in these spaces, and I’m not willing to wait for one more assault.

ii. TJ Blackburn: I think that Resolution B fails to realize the main fact that expelling houses due to failure to co-educate doesn’t mean that the houses don’t go to Wesleyan. Wesleyan can bid, but that doesn’t mean integration will magically happen. It’s unfair to talk about hazing, it is a gross generalization. We are having the discussion about co-education, but our national chapter does not support it, and a year is not enough to prove that we are willing to change and have 50% female.

jj. Andrew Trexler: we ask for significant and meaningful co-education, not exactly 50%.

kk. Simon Chen: Our campus for the large part has not been a proactive campus. Resolution A can use these fraternity spaces as a way to combat sexual assault. We’ve only opened the avenue who have been sexually assaulted in fraternities and not opening it for people who were sexually assaulted outside of them. We are using the fraternity spaces that are more welcoming. One good idea Kate Cullen brought up was moving organizations together. We’re allowing a co-ed space without having these groups break apart.
Matt Fine: I think that Resolution A will fail because I don’t think everyone in a frat will be committed. We have this false sense of Wesleyan being perfect and not needing to be changed, but we need radical reforms. I think we should get rid of all frats.

Ben: Point of Personal Privilege: Let’s create a less accusatory tone so people feel safe to voice opinion,

Lily Herman: I question the bit about hazing because I do know pledges who have told me otherwise. To Matt’s point, I question the institutional memory in general. This is an issue we have on campus. The fraternity brothers who are here tonight might be committed to this issue but what happens down the line. Spaces don’t create brotherhood or sisterhood, people do.

Rebecca Hutman: A lot of people seeing sexual assault at a holistic approach. In resolution B, it talks about how we are seizing an opportunity right now to make change that I think might help reduce sexual assault on campus. We shouldn’t let this action obscure us from seeking other change in the future as well.

Bruno Machiavelo: I agree with Ben. I’m a big proponent of Resolution B. I don’t want anyone to be afraid of what they want to say and be open with what they feel. As WSA, we are actually open to listening. I am open to respect everyone’s viewpoints. I wanted to push back a little bit on Resolution A and say how a lot of people are working hard and doing all these things to make all these progressive changes but all these can be done in a co-educational space as well. We don’t really know what will happen when these program house statuses.

TJ: Where is the money behind Roth’s statement?

Chloe: That is irrelevant.

Andrew Trexler: Wesleyan has the capacity to purchase these houses. Your right to party does not trump someone’s ownership to their body. Time matters. For those who say that fraternities are the ones who are working the hardest, I don’t see a lot of you around at those sorts of meetings and I think that is discouraging. At no point in this resolution is there a recommendation to violate the right to assembly. We are only talking about spaces and people’s rights to their bodies.

Scott: To TJ’s point, I don’t deny Roth’s intention to buy the frats. Fraternities alumni may well try to buy the house. From intervention training, most rapes are by someone you know in a dorm room. I think we’re delusion to think banning an institution can end misogynistic behavior in an individual. The focus is misplaced on frats, and cracking down on frats exclusively will draw our focus from fixing the larger problem.

Gabriel: I want to agree with everything you said. I am a part of a fraternity and also a survivor of sexual assault. I would like to discourage people using anecdotal evidence. I don’t think it is a good representation of the groups you are supporting. Violent crime is committed by individuals, not by groups. I know a lot
about what happened with 200 Church. While the brothers were welcoming of the idea at that time, I don’t think it is right to let go of these organizations if they are not given a chance to prove themselves. The problem not necessarily is within the groups themselves but part of a bigger thing on campus.

vv. Ev: Thank you to everyone has shared personal stories. I’m a member of Eclectic and representing them. To the point of co-ed societies, there is a value to having members of all genders. I want to be an officer of Eclectic and I’m grateful for this discussion. Women have a unique anxiety when they go out, and that anxiety needs a voice in the leadership of these spaces.

ww. Lexie: Greek organizations offer community and support. I don’t think I would want to be part of Rho Ep if it were forced to go co-ed. We need to stop demonizing frats and frat members and look at individuals.

xx. Jackie: I am the president of Rho Ep and sponsoring A on their behalf. Last year, we tried to create a co-ed prototype. I would have liked to have taken on that responsibility. Each organization have their own values, co-education has a different place depending on values. It’s important not to conflate individuals with organizations. I suggest co-educating one floor of each house being co-educated.

yy. Jason: The Rho Ep/AEPi project would’ve been great. We need to streamline resources for survivors on campus. Greek organizations need to breed inclusivity by dropping dangerous practices, such as hazing, where they exist. There are no teeth in the sanctions we currently have.

zz. Yiyang: An all-female group is inherently different from an all-male group because all-male groups are already powered by society. Frats provide a space for male domination. Differences in power dynamic is very dangerous, especially for freshmen girls who tend to be more vulnerable.

aaa. Alecia: I’d like to discuss spaces. There is no all-women’s space on campus. There is an inherent difference between male and female spaces. Why is there a need to empower males who are already empowered by society? I’m shocked by the desire by alumni to possess these spaces. That attitude makes me further doubt the place these spaces have on our campus.

bbb. Aidan: Why is there such a death grip on these all-male spaces? Higher frequencies of sexual assault do occur in frats, and this is a step in eliminating male-centric places and also sexual assault. I don’t see what frats contribute to the Wesleyan community. “Getting rid of frats” means getting rid of male-dominated spaces, not getting rid of the memberships in these frats.

ccc. Rachel: If and when a person gets raped, the conversation shouldn’t be centered on the places where it happened. This will suck for brothers who seek to maintain frats. It’s clear that if these frats didn’t exist we could focus on the real issue.
Ben: Aidan, Resolution B clearly states that frats need to take a clear action to be co-educational. To those who deem frats irrelevant, that is invalid because it is irrelevant for a subset of the Wesleyan community. We have to allow different experiences within the Wesleyan community. Thank you, everyone, for watching the tone. I’d support Resolution B, if we’re making it clear that we’re not forcing co-education.

Matt: I want to bring back the point of Wesleyan exceptionalism. We have to think about what fraternities stand for in a theoretical sense. You can go online and see thousands of articles. If we want to stand by the moral set a lot of us agree with, we have to understand the social stand fraternities are, not just in our school but within a larger community.

Yael: There is a lot of pain in this room. Nothing in Resolution B would contribute to pain. Resolution A does not go far enough to diminish pain.

Lily Herman: Question for all the women in the room: Raise your hand if you have felt unsafe in any space at any point. There is a lot of female frustration over the lack of conversation about what the women on this campus face. More female conversations need to be had. Frat members and all other men, please make yourselves more known at these events.

Bruno Machiavelo: You don’t need a house for sisterhood/brotherhood. Let’s focus more on the space than the institution.

Sadasia: I yield my time.

Jackie: I think you are right. We worked really hard to create the community we have in Rho Ep. It’s difficult for us to organize things without our own space. I think that that point is valid but you have to work really hard to create a community and that will be enhanced with an all-female space.

Bruno Machiavelo: I think people should be willing to undergo these challenges to provide these safe spaces.

Nicole Updegrove: I appreciate what people are saying, especially Ben’s diversity argument. The problem is inequality. I fought for gender equality in the form of giving Rho EP a house, and it wasn’t permitted. If the University doesn’t want to give more houses to Greeks, including women, then we have to co-educate or take away problematic men’s spaces to equalize.

Gabriel: Fraternities were founded at a time wherein the culture was very different. Personally, I didn’t think I would join a fraternity. It was a surprise when I found myself joining one. It was simply because I was looking for groups in these fraternities and I saw nothing but support with my brothers in the fraternity. The National Organization of most of the fraternities is such that it does not allow that. It can sever the connection with the National that connects the different fraternities. Changing that is a bit more of a difficult concept that I think most people in fraternities can accept right now.
Matt: I want to echo what Gabriel said. These organizations can be positive forces, which Resolution B encourages. There are some things I would not feel comfortable sharing with my female friends that I could share with my fraternity brothers.

Ellen: Listening to this conversation play out, a lot of my thoughts have changed. My experience did not happen in a frat house and that issue is important. I have also seen positive effects of fraternities. Whatever changes happen, I urge everyone to not criminalize frats. I feel like this resolution’s tone criminalizes people and we should not generalize communities based on single events.

Simon: I’m not in support of Resolution A because I don’t want to create a rift between groups in the student body. I do support Resolution B and the idea of creating more gender-equal spaces. We need to separate the ideas of fraternities and sexual assaults. I’m worried that once frats go co-ed, we’ll stop thinking about how to prevent sexual assault. People on campus aren’t really aware about sexual assault.

Ryden: I think that Resolution B is part of the action that is needed. Bruno raised a lot of points about spaces and brought this conversation back to these male-dominated spaces. The benefits of being in a brotherhood are excellent but I don’t see how they require gendered spaces in a way they currently exist. I agree that we need to make radical change.

Jesse: I think that there is this huge subset of people and that there are a big number of people in these parties we host. They do enjoy these parties. I do think they actually enjoy these events and that there isn’t a substitution. If you were to get rid of fraternities, I’m not sure there is a place where all these other people will go. I believe that because fraternities are a part of a bigger organization, this is how we are able to host these parties on campus. I feel there needs to be something in place int hes ubset of the Wesleyan campus to turn to.

Rebecca: Most people are wiling to sacrifiece a social cause to help with human cause.

Lily: I think Wesleyan would find another way of socializing even if frats were gone. Women have internalized many issues, and this is one of the only spaces where women can safely speak. I just want to ask the men to try to see things from a woman’s perspective.

Sally: You clearly have felt connections in these single-sex environments. I think a lot of people in these groups don’t have houses. This is a conversation about space. I have had very traumatic experiences in fraternities on campus. I feel incredibly uncomfortable in those environments. It’s an effort to make myself go out because it feels unsafe. I think that it’s clear that connections can be formed without a space. I think something that hasn’t been addressed that much are the alcohol and drugs in these space. These things are perpetuated by the
spaces that are lived in by these people.

vvv. Lexie: If we want to make more female-powered spaces, we should. Let’s stop focusing the conversation on destroying things and work on creating new things. If there’s money to buy a frat house, there’s money to buy a female-centered area.

www. Rosie: I want to issue the of alcohol consumption. For example, the fire marshall came and reduced the capacity of senior houses. People who choose to drink are going to continue to choose to drink. Drinking plays a role in a large number of sexual assault cases. When you have someone responsible for a space, then both resolutions need to conclude something in spending time on how to make the party culture safer, not dominated by anyone but others. That’s the beauty about program houses because there is less diffusion of responsibility when someone is actually responsible for a space.

xxx. Jason: We have to ensure that we have more RA and housing reform to make sure everyone is safe in all spaces. Alcohol and fire code are both issues here. To Lily, there is still a stigma for men going to all-female “spaces” such as WesBAM, the Women’s Conference (only one man showed up), the Monologues. I myself have felt awkward in those spaces.

yyy. Alecia: We can say “vagina”, it’s not vulgar. To the point of disregarding lack of administrative support, it is not realistic. Rho Ep has great logic, but there is a systemic problem. The WSA doesn’t have the power to fix this problem. We have to make gains as the administration will allow it.

zzz. Mari: Assuming this issue is about sexual assault, then I just wanted to ask what you think sexual assault looks like on campus if you are behind Resolution A. It’s something that checking Wes IDs at the door, having daytime events, having PSafe go in there, it will not address sexual assault. Refusing to institutionally support male dominant spaces is the only direction towards solving something.

aaaa. Chloe: Co-educating is a very creative and positive step, which can enhance the social environment.

bbbb. Ryden: I think it’s awful that comparing buying alcohol to the safety of the campus was brought up. (?) sorry i wasn’t sure!!

cccc. Lynn: We keep straying from Sexual Assault. to that point, I don’t want to undermine the communities on campus. Other groups on campus exist and share your struggles for space. Let’s transition greek organization to another type of community that doesn’t perpetuate sexual assault. These groups are great for the members, but in their current form, not for the larger community.

dddd. Bruno: I want to stress the importance of continued involvement, please come to the next meetings as well. Frats have been given the chance for over 50 years, so I don’t buy that these resolutions are sudden. Other campuses have
gotten rid of frats and still maintained their social environment.

Lily: In response to Jason, men need to get over it and show up and see how it is when they aren’t in the position of power.

Tim: I’m a member of Psi U and first I’d like to say thank you-- this was a humbling experience. The room has pushed towards Resolution B. It’s not about the resolution, but the respect that the Fraternities love the houses and care. Don’t generalize based on individuals. We are committed to making a change, it is reactive, but our current membership is different. You can’t hold us to the decisions made by members 50 years ago. We will respect Resolution A and more.

Victor: The place where I come from, there are no fraternities and sororities but there is still a sense of brotherhood. This brotherhood doesn’t have to be based on these kinds of things. I don’t think think that sexual assault is only caused by the cultures of fraternities. Wesleyan is not all about the cultures of fraternities. I think there are other cultures that we should be aware of in light of this issue. I think that fraternities have this hierarchical structure and their brotherhood attempt encourages all these brothers to take actions. I do want more cooperation from the fraternity brothers.

Gabriel: Thank you to everyone who shared. To those who question the need for space, part of the function of fraternities depends on spaces. The groups that occupy the houses now are different-- give them the opportunity to change, while maintaining tradition. Resolution B is a little too abrupt. Let’s give Resolution A a chance. If it fails, then we need Resolution B.

Rachel Kaly: I did not mean to offend you in my earlier comment. Tradition should be used as an argument. Who cares when people are clearly uncomfortable? At what cost are these cultures and historical aspects in? Sexual assault is three times more likely to occur in a frat. There are countless studies on this. This is a meeting about sexual assault and I don’t see the value of highlighting the social aspects of a fraternity.

Gabriel: Point of information, the studies that show those also show that with bystander intervention, the cases of sexual assault drop.

Martin: Both of these resolutions are band-aids. Both resolutions say we will remain “actively seized of the matter.” We must follow through on that. Even if it’s just a band-aid, any help it can provide is valuable.

Bruno: A lot of people say they are committed with this. I kind of want to push back on this idea because that is taking a huge risk that so many sexual assaults will happen. I do value tradition but I’m not willing to compromise on the fact that someone’s sexual well-being is more important on that.

Alton: The reason why we don’t think that Resolution A goes far enough is because the Inter-Greek council already has these things in their position.
statement. If you’re going to tell people that the ones who are perpetrating sexual assault to go to bystander interventions, it’s not going to work.

Andrew Trexler: Thank you to everyone who came and voiced your opinion. Thanks to Gretchen and the minute takers. I fought for Rho Ep and AEPi last year; we need female-controlled spaces, but those don’t fix the problems within male-controlled spaces. No argument is greater than the importance of someone’s health. To me, Resolution A is disturbing because it recommends that we preserve patriarchy so that patriarchy can be used to help women.

Nicole Updegrove: I have a statement from Kate Cullen.

Hello all! Apologies that I’m not able to make it to the meeting. I am currently on a train back from Scranton, PA where I ran a half marathon today with many family members. It’s been quite the busy and emotionally taxing week; meeting with administrators, student activists, survivors, Greek members, and of course my committee on how to best tackle the issue of sexual assault. I consider myself a vigilant activists against sexual assault, getting involved as soon as I arrived on campus, meeting with Amherst activists over the summer, proposing comprehensive Title IX reforms, and serving on too many committees to name. Far too many of my friends have been sexually assaulted on campus and of course I want nothing more than for no one else to ever go through that absolutely horrifying experience.

What I’ve been struggling with all week is if getting rid of frat houses will really lower rates of sexual assault. As we all know, “rape culture” plagues all of campus. Frats may create a certain culture that allows for that behavior, but even without a space, the individuals who commit these acts will still be out there.

Before we call for the end of frat houses and ignite a fire of a campus debate that will certainly tear us apart, lets be sure there is no alternative. Resolution A developed out of the idea that we need to work on this issue together as a community and not pit sexual assault activists and Greek members against each other until we are sure the two groups have no shared goals. I am not yet convinced that this binary exists.

Finally, making social change to break down rape culture is incredibly difficult. But, it’s even more difficult to change individuals than it is to change institutions. Through the clear institutional and social framework of these Greek organizations it may be easier to initiate change. However, this requires the sincere and absolute efforts of or Greek leadership. As long as this is demonstrated, I continue to support resolution a, however, if it falters I will switch to resolution b.

Nicole Updegrove: Personally, I find Resolution A to be offensive. I think that fraternities in general can be leaders on the issue of sexual assault but these three fraternities, in my experiences, have not been. The claim that fraternity brothers in these houses will be activists is an insult to everyone who has been assaulted here. Small-scale changes like bystander intervention are inadequate. Statistics show that the people who commit sexual assault are not impacted by bystander intervention training. I don’t think the changes in Resolution A are enough.
Rachel: I’d like to respond to the value of secrets and traditions. Some of those are inherently degrading to women. Sexual assault is not just rape—it’s inappropriate violation of one’s body. Those are accepted and expected at Fraternities.

Glenn: Please tell your friends about this so we can get as many perspectives as possible. I want to leave all of you with food for thought. The resolutions out here step in terms of progress but idealistically speaking, the idea on these are adjusting the mentalities of the people involved. It’s focused right now on Greek organizations but how can we create an educational program. I suggest that we implement first hand accounts or something that pulls out passions and reinforced by logic and statistics in reorientation. How can we get people in a space together and make that message apparent.

Cameron: I’m a PsiU brother, but I’ll try to be objective. To those who say Resolution A doesn’t go far enough, it’s true. It’s sad to think people are uncomfortable in my house. We need to change. Just because resolution A doesn’t go far enough doesn’t mean B is the right answer. Resolution A is a step in the right direction and we still would need to make further Frats with its adoption.

As an undergraduate member of PsiU, changes will be made beyond just bystander intervention.

Chloe: I love that promise, but you can’t guarantee that for more than 3 years. Since frats have an issue each year I don’t foresee any meaningful follow-through now. I’m in the mood for a Hail Mary. Since we’re unsure of the efficacy of A, we shouldn’t promote it. B sends a clear signal. I don’t think frats are the most involved in combating sexual assault; they need to get involved.

Gretchen: Thank you for coming. Your contribution is not in vain.

Resolution A:

i. For: 7
ii. Against: 7
iii. Undecided: 8
iv. Abstain: 6

Resolution B:

i. For: 10
ii. Against: 3
iii. Undecided: 12
iv. Abstain: 4

Meeting CLOSES: 10:06

4. Committee Reports
5. Faculty Ed Resolution
6. Constitutional review
7. New Business and Announcements

Meeting Adjourned: XX:XXam/pm

Respectfully Submitted,
#GiveFredABreak`15