

1-23-2019

## **Resolution 20190123A**

Faculty Senate

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### **Call for a More Deliberative Approach to Considering a Public/Private Partnership for Campus Housing**

The Faculty Senate is concerned about the rush to privatize portions of the University through outsourcing and public/private partnerships. We urge the University to thoughtfully deliberate the implications of a public/private partnership for campus housing not only for its impact on students and faculty, but also on the long term viability of the University. The privatization of parking, which was described as a plan that would lead to no substantial changes in services, has had unintended impacts on recruiting, advising events, and academic events. Similarly, the privatization of housing may have substantial effects that have not yet been examined. The Faculty Senate, and other input bodies, cannot provide knowledgeable and meaningful input on the need to enter a partnership until we have:

1. evidence that student housing is dilapidated and requires significant immediate upgrade
2. the opportunity to tour of housing facilities at the end of January (1/30/19)
3. a more detailed and thorough exploration of the option of renovating the campus housing using University funding (either general fund or through borrowing)

This issue is important to the Faculty Senate because it affects our students and the long-term viability of the University. An agreement with an outside vendor may create a tiered housing system that would make on-campus housing unaffordable for our poorer students, denying them the benefits of on-campus living. Additionally, there are concerns about the collateral that will be used for the loans procured by an outside vendor and whether the inability to repay or potential bankruptcy of an outside vendor would affect the financial viability of the University.

In order to ensure that the above concerns are adequately addressed and that meaningful input can be provided, we request that:

1. the Request for Proposals (RFP's) do not go out until Senate has offered input on whether to proceed with a public/private partnership
2. if an RFP goes out, that Senate has the opportunity to provide input on the RFP
3. if the process moves forward, once RFP's are returned, there is a process for obtaining information about the vendors, and Faculty Senate will review both the RFP's and research data on the potential private partners and provide input on the final decision

Approved unanimously by Faculty Senate 1/23/19