

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 14th, 2012

Gender Neutral BU

Primary Contact: Rea Sowan

(617)515-8061

reasowan@bu.edu

Secondary Contact: Sasha Goodfriend

(917)232-5801

sgfriend@bu.edu

BU STUDENTS THREATENED WITH ARREST AFTER RE-DELIVERING GENDER NEUTRAL HOUSING PROPOSAL TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Boston, MA, 12/14/2012-

At noon today Boston University students entered University President Robert Brown's office demanding a future meeting to discuss the administration's recent decision to revoke its promise to implement Gender Neutral Housing in the Fall of 2013.

Each student hand-delivered a copy of the proposal, originally submitted by Student Government, as well as a copy of an online petition created Monday. Vice President Douglas Sears denied students' request to schedule a meeting with the President. Students proceeded to sit in the office, using their voices to share personal stories regarding how the administration's failure to implement Gender Neutral Housing affects their campus.

After approximately one hour, Dean of Students Kenneth Elmore delivered the administration's message: if students did not evacuate the premises within two minutes, they would be arrested and immediately suspended from the University.

While exiting the building, students passed police officers armed with batons and zip-tie handcuffs.

Students were reacting to an announcement on Sunday, December 9th that plans to implement Gender Neutral Housing had been "indefinitely halted" and were no longer a priority for the administration.

Gender Neutral BU issued a statement along with a petition early Monday morning, which has received over 2,300 signatures. The group will not rest until the issue of Gender Neutral Housing is appropriately addressed by the administration and the safety of all students is made a priority.

Gender Neutral BU encourages the student body, alumni, parents, faculty, and other community members to show support through letters addressed to the administration. Submissions can be emailed to genderneutralbu@gmail.com and will be forwarded to the administration.

Below is a link to the petition: <https://www.change.org/petitions/the-boston-university-administration-implement-gender-neutral-housing-for-fall-2013>

"Gender Neutral BU" comprises of the Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism, the Boston University Student Government, and student, faculty, administrative, parent and alumni supporters. This group will pressure the BU administration to reverse its decision and demand that the university president take a public stand on the issue.

###