



**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL  
STUDENT BODY  
SPRING TERM  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX**



**RESOLUTION NO. R.-209-001**

**A RESOLUTION ON STUDENT VOICE AND SHARED GOVERNANCE AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**

WHEREAS Harvard Law School is not solely an administrative institution, but a shared community and joint project among students, faculty, administrators, and staff;

WHEREAS students are not merely recipients of legal education, but active participants in shaping the intellectual, professional, and social life of the Law School;

WHEREAS meaningful student voice is therefore not incidental, but foundational to the mission and integrity of Harvard Law School;

WHEREAS Belinda Hall, formally known as Haas Lounge, serves as the central common space of Harvard Law School and stands as both a physical and symbolic embodiment of student voice, community, and expression;

WHEREAS the Harvard Law School Student Government has previously affirmed the naming and normal use of Belinda Hall as an open and shared space for student gathering, expression, and engagement;

WHEREAS Harvard Law School is currently operating in a period of institutional strain, shaped by external political pressures, leadership transitions, and decisions with substantial consequences for the student body, including impacts on international students and other vulnerable members of the community;

WHEREAS recent institutional actions have constrained student voice, dissent, and protest, undermining core principles of openness, accountability, and shared governance at Harvard Law School;

WHEREAS the principles of free speech, academic freedom, and the right to peaceful protest are foundational to Harvard Law School, and must be protected as essential components of legal education, including in the context of student advocacy on contested and global issues such as Palestine;

WHEREAS the Law School is also entering a period of fiscal constraint and institutional austerity, with anticipated impacts on student organizations, Student Practice Organization (SPO) policies, Summer Public Interest Funding (SPIF), and broader student life;

WHEREAS these decisions, taken together, are among the most consequential facing the Law School in recent years, and underscore the need for inclusive, transparent, and participatory governance;-

WHEREAS there is currently no standing, structured mechanism through which students can consistently participate in, review, and publicly respond to institutional decisions that substantially affect their educational experience and community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Harvard Law School Student Government affirms that student voice must be a permanent and central feature of institutional governance, and that the Law School community is best understood as a shared project among students, faculty, administrators, and staff;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in light of the present moment of institutional strain and the significance of the decisions being made, the Student Government calls for the immediate establishment of a standing Student-Faculty-Administration Advisory Committee on Institutional Priorities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Advisory Committee shall include meaningful student representation alongside faculty and administrative leadership, and shall be convened in advance of major decisions affecting student life, including but not limited to leadership processes, responses to external pressures, student organization funding, SPO policies, SPIF, and access to institutional spaces;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Advisory Committee shall have the ability to deliberate on proposed institutional actions and, where a majority of its members so vote, issue public statements expressing support for or discontent with such decisions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purpose of this structure is to ensure that student perspectives are not only heard, but formally incorporated into institutional deliberation and publicly reflected in moments of disagreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Belinda Hall shall continue to be recognized as Belinda Hall and preserved as an open and accessible space that reflects and facilitates the principle of student voice affirmed in this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Harvard Law School must affirm and protect the principles of free speech, academic freedom, and the right to peaceful protest, including student advocacy on contested and global issues such as Palestine, as essential components of legal education and community life;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Harvard Law School should provide greater transparency into the principles and tradeoffs guiding institutional decision-making, particularly where such decisions have material effects on student life and community well-being;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while the urgency of this moment necessitates immediate action, the principles of shared governance and meaningful student participation affirmed in this Resolution should endure beyond the present period and guide the Law School's institutional practices moving forward.

**PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL:**

**VOTE TOTALS:**

**10   YES**

**0   NO**

**3   ABSTAIN**