



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Academic Governance

Resolution No: _____

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST BATHROOM EQUITY ON ESF'S MAIN CAMPUS

Sponsored by the Executive Committee of Academic Governance

Whereas it is acknowledged that some of our buildings are old and were built when the campus gender demographic was predominately male; and

Whereas the gender demographic on this campus has changed significantly since, approaching a more balanced diversity of genders; and

Whereas a recent bathroom audit of Illick Hall revealed that men have 38 places (urinals and toilets) to relieve themselves and women only have 8; and

Whereas it was recently calculated that women in Illick Hall routinely lose approximately 40 minutes a month either waiting in line for a stall or walking between floors or to another building and often cannot use a facility between classes; and

Whereas gender-specific bathrooms present problems for parents needing to travel with differently gendered children and disabled people with differently gendered attendants; and

Whereas there are buildings on campus without ADA accessible bathrooms for both genders or at least one all gender fully accessible bathroom and many bathrooms currently designated as handicap accessible are likely only minimally accessible; and

Whereas there are currently few facilities on the SUNY-ESF campus where individuals not on the gender binary, transgender, gender non-conforming, or transitioning individuals are comfortable "Peeing in Peace";¹ and

Whereas a recent petition requesting that the first floor men's and women's multi-stall bathrooms in the Jahn Laboratory which has a wealth of bathrooms having been constructed after 1993, be re-designated as all gender was signed by approximately 275 (and counting) community members; and

Whereas the Jahn Chemistry Faculty passed a motion in support of all gender bathrooms but requesting that the College investigate the renovation of existing bathrooms including the cost and impacts on students, faculty and staff; and

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Association passed Resolution 05.2015: A Resolution Recommending the SUNY-ESF Administration Implement Gender Inclusive Spaces; and

Whereas at the 172nd Plenary of the SUNY University Faculty Senate a resolution was passed recommending the SUNY Wide Implementation of Gender Inclusive Spaces;² and

Whereas a new bill is being considered within the New York State Legislature “that would make all single-occupancy restrooms in public places gender neutral”;³ and

Whereas Syracuse and New York State include gender identity under Title VII, a Federal law that protects all employees from discrimination;⁴ and

Whereas the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published clear guidelines for “Best Practices, A guide to restrooms access for transgender workers”⁵ ; and

Whereas OSHA also recommends that there be one water closet for every 15 employees⁶;

Therefore be it resolved that Academic Governance requests that ESF administration and the ESF Capital Planning Committee perform a bathroom audit that includes: assessing the current accessibility, availability, and ADA compliance of all handicap restrooms; investigating the cost and feasibility of renovating and re-designating the Jahn first floor bathrooms as all gender; reassigning some men’s bathrooms as women’s rooms in Illick Hall; and

Be it further resolved that Academic Governance requests that ESF administration charge physical plant with re-designating the second floor bathrooms located in the Gateway Building (side by side, single-stall lockable for individual occupancy, men’s and women’s bathrooms) immediately and the change be advertised widely; and

Be it further resolved that Academic Governance requests that the ESF Administration and the Capital Planning Committee seek to achieve bathroom equity across campus by renovating and re-designating other bathrooms in other buildings; and

Be it further it resolved that Academic Governance requests that the ESF Administration create a policy to ensure that all new buildings constructed and all future renovations in existing buildings on the ESF campus be built with fully accessible all gender bathrooms, exclusively; and

Finally, be it resolved that Academic Governance requests that the ESF Administration and the Capital Planning Committee report the results of their study and their plans for renovation of current facilities at the May 2017 meeting of Academic Governance.

