



State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

## College Governance

Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Faculty  
Introduced by the Student Life Committee of College Governance

### CALLING TO

Address the Utilization of Classroom and Laboratory Spaces across the ESF main campus

**Whereas** the ESF Registrar recently demonstrated ongoing imbalance in the use of instructional spaces, thereby leading to conflicts or shortages of teaching spaces: for instance, during the 10.5-hour daily instructional block, 45% of the unused available instructional spaces occur within the earliest (8:00-9:20 or 8:25-9:20) and latest (5:05-6:00 or 5:00-6:20) lecture periods; and

**Whereas** members of the ESF Undergraduate Student Association recently polled its members, of which 58% shared (out of 96 responders) they have had experienced the challenges of at capacity classrooms and teaching laboratory spaces; and

**Whereas** members of the ESF Graduate Student Association recently polled its members, of which 70% shared (out of 17) they have personally been affected by -crowding in the classroom or teaching laboratory, with some respondents not having enough computers (for GIS, statistics, and data management courses), not enough lab materials for students, and TAs being asked to support/grade additional(?) courses that were heavily enrolled and unsupported by teaching assistants; and

**Whereas** faculty have reported at-capacity classrooms have led to problems such as incivility, poor engagement of students and poor overall learning environments; and

**Whereas** recent reductions in full-time tenure-track faculty in conjunction with proposed 61% increase in undergraduate enrollment throughout the SUNY system by 2020<sup>[1]</sup>, may lead to some level of higher undergraduate enrollments at ESF with fewer faculty teaching fewer classes, thereby increasing average enrollments within any given class;

**Whereas** the Registrar has identified multiple teaching spaces that are of poor quality for instruction or lacking instructional technology, or inadequate student work space; and

**Whereas** the ESF community is currently engaged in visioning and strategic planning of programming and facilities without any guiding information to know or project the true carrying capacity of current facilities to meet instructional demands; and

**Whereas** on October 16, 2013 the ESF Faculty Governance resolved to Refine the College Hour by integrating it seamlessly into a planned class schedule reset that was slated to occur for January 2015;

**Therefore be it resolved again** that the Faculty request that the President and the Provost conduct and implement a reset of the campus-wide instructional schedule to take effect beginning with the Fall 2016 semester in order to maximize the common utilization of instructional space throughout the day and work week, thereby reducing conflicts with student schedules and conflicts in use of instructional spaces; and

**Further be it resolved**, to accomplish a reset, that each academic Department and Division, the Library, and CNS designate one person that will serve on a committee to work with the Provost and Registrar to ensure scheduling of courses in a manner that meets the programming needs of each department; and

**Further be it resolved** that the ESF Administration appoint one office that will serve as the resource for faculty to communicate classroom physical space concerns and requests for future improvement, and

**Further be it resolved** that the ESF Administration appointed office also be positioned to receive any concerns/suggestions that ESF undergraduate and graduate students would have, including the data collected regarding the “effectiveness of teaching space” question on the end of semester course evaluations, and

**Finally be it resolved** that the information gained through the campus reset be presented by the ESF Administration to the Faculty as justification for any anticipated future changes in enrollment, staffing and infrastructure planning.

[1] Zimpher, N.L. 2015 State of the University Address. Available online at:  
<http://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/chancellor-nancy-zimpher/speeches/2015-sou/>