



**Associated Students of Western Washington University
Board of Directors**

A Resolution Regarding Gender Neutral Restrooms

May 2012

WHEREAS, it is a paramount duty of the Associated Students to ensure that all students have access to public services like restrooms; and,

WHEREAS, safe restroom access is not a luxury or a special right; and,

WHEREAS, gender-segregated restrooms impede the ability of some students to access public restrooms by creating uncomfortable and unsafe spaces, thereby denying them full access to public life; and,

WHEREAS, gender segregated restrooms encourage people to read the gender of other occupants and police the space to keep it free of "wrongly" gendered people; and,

WHEREAS, fifty percent of trans people report having been harassed or assaulted in a gender-segregated multi-stall restrooms; and,

WHEREAS, according to the 2010 Campus Climate Survey, LGBT students have witnessed and experienced more harassment than any other group on campus and have the highest disagreement of any minority group that they are treated fairly by the University; and,

WHEREAS, according to the 2010 Campus Climate Survey 50% of LGBT students think that Western should make greater efforts to recruit and retain diverse students; and,

WHEREAS, the AS Strategic Plan upholds the value of inclusion and a commitment to diversity and non-discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, the University supplies an estimated 212 publically accessible restrooms, of which only 16 (7.5%) are gender neutral; and,

WHEREAS, Only nine of thirty buildings with publically accessible restrooms supply gender neutral restrooms; and,

WHEREAS, there is an unbalanced distribution of gender-neutral restroom on north campus between Canada House and the Fine Arts Building, leading to even lower accessibility in central and south campus; and,

WHEREAS, health problems can develop as a result of a lack of access to restrooms; and,

WHEREAS, gender-segregated restrooms have also been sites of sexual orientation-based intimidation, harassment, and assault; and,

WHEREAS, students with differently-gendered children should be able to accompany their children into the restroom; and,

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are not able to bring their differently gendered attendants or family members into restrooms; and,

WHEREAS, gender-neutral restrooms would promote diversity on our campus and foster an environment that acknowledges, appreciates, respects, and creates equal opportunity for our diverse student body; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students supports the expansion of safe and accessible gender-neutral restrooms on campus and the inclusion of gender-neutral restrooms in the Campus Standards for future construction and remodeling.

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