



**Associated Students of Western Washington University
Management Council
Brought by Ben Crowther**

A Resolution Regarding Gender Neutral Restrooms

October 2012

Proposal: To amend the AS Program Standards Section IV. AS Program Office Activity and Event Standards to Include the following requirements:

- (1) All events put on by AS programming offices with an expected attendance of 150 people or more must make a best-faith effort to provide at least one gender-neutral restroom.
- (2) All AS staff developments must make a best-faith effort to provide at least one gender-neutral restroom each day of the training. Make-up trainings and AS Day of Service are excluded from this standard.

Reasoning: The AS Board of Directors unanimously recognized the following:

- (1) It is a paramount duty of the Associated Students to ensure that all students have access to public services like restrooms.
- (2) Safe restroom access is not a luxury or a special right.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Fifty percent of trans* people report having been harassed or assaulted in gender-segregated multi-stall restrooms.
- (5) According to the 2012 Campus Climate Survey, LGBT students have witnessed and experienced more harassment than any other group on campus.
- (6) The AS Strategic Plan upholds the value of Inclusion and a commitment to diversity and non-discrimination.
- (7) Gender-segregated restrooms have also been sites of sexual orientation-based intimidation, harassment, and assault.
- (8) People with disabilities are not able to bring their differently gendered attendants or family members into restrooms.
- (9) Gender-neutral restrooms promote diversity on our campus and foster an environment that acknowledges, appreciates, respects, and creates equal opportunity for our diverse student body.

The resolution concluded that "The Associated Students supports the expansion of safe and accessible gender-neutral restrooms on campus."

It is imperative that the Associated Students work to actualize this goal by working to amend our internal policies. The proposed changes are crucial steps forward.

Additional Information: The Personnel Director, ROP and ASP have expressed support for this resolution. Four ROP offices (the QRC, SIRC, DOC, and WC) co-sponsored last year's resolution and AS Productions staff expressed support at their October 9th staff meeting this year.

The number of 150 for expected attendance was chosen to correspond with the margin at which VU Security must be utilized. This requirement will therefore incur no cost unto any AS office.

Restroom conversion procedures have been developed by the Queer Resource Center and will be shared with VU Event Services, who will be responsible for the conversions.

Conversion signage will:

- (a) briefly describe what a gender-neutral restroom is
- (b) note the nearest gender-segregated/neutral restroom
- (c) cover the gender-designated signage on the temporary gender-neutral restroom

Convertible restrooms have been identified within the VU for events taking place within the VU, including the MPR.

Conversations are currently underway to identify restrooms and conversion procedures for restrooms in academic buildings across campus, including: Academics West, Arntzen, Fraser, and the PAC.

This proposal corresponds with a campus-wide initiative to expand access to gender-neutrals restrooms.