



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

April 13, 2015

Robert Kyr  
Senate President  
University Senate

Dear Rob:

I am writing in response to *Senate Resolution 14/15-30 to Create and Make Accessible More Gender-Inclusive restrooms on the University of Oregon Campus*. As I stated in my remarks to the University Senate on April 8, 2015, The University of Oregon is very supportive of increasing the number of gender inclusive bathroom on campus, and university staff have been working on this issue for months.

Increasing the number of gender inclusive bathroom will allow people of different genders to stay together in restroom settings when necessary, including families, friends, and attendants. Additionally, it will make the University of Oregon safer and more accessible for transgender, genderqueer, and gender variant students.

The Vice President for Finance and Administration has charged a small committee representing Campus Operations; LGBT Education and Support Services; and Campus Planning, Design, and Construction to carry out the planning and implementation of this project.

What the university has done to date:

- Developed an inventory of all restrooms in academic buildings and the type of restrooms;
- Conducted initial state building code research and identified restrooms that would require only a change to signage (all single-occupancy unisex restrooms and some male and female single-occupancy restrooms);
- Developed new signage, which received the support of the LGBTESSP and LGBTQ students;
- Reached out to departments about whether they had any issues with changing the signage on specific single-occupancy restrooms to identify them as gender-inclusive;
- Ordered new signage for many restrooms across campus; and
- Developed a communications plan to educate the campus community.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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What is currently in process or needs to be done:

- Continue building code research (for restrooms that would require more than a change to signage) to understand impacts to code compliance. Each building is required by state law to have a certain number of toilet fixtures for men and women;
- Develop specifications for gender-inclusive restrooms to include in the Campus Construction Standards;
- Continue outreach to departments;
- Gather updated and accurate information on gender-inclusive restrooms to include on the interactive campus map on UO's main website as well as the UO App;
- Update the interactive campus map to accurately identify current, accessible gender inclusive restrooms (type "gender inclusive restroom" into the "find on map" search bar for outdated information); and
- Develop a system of directional signage.

For single-occupancy restroom that need only a signage change, the university expects to convert approximately 40 restrooms in the next few months, and convert another approximately 75-100 by the start of fall term. After this stage of work is done, the university can assess the steps and investment necessary to convert other bathrooms.

I am not able to accept the resolution, as written and approved, because it does not take into account the current university planning process, municipal codes, intergovernmental relationships or cost considerations. However, the university is supportive of working *towards* these proposals, as feasible, within the current process that is underway.

I appreciate having the Senate's support on the university initiative to create more gender-inclusive bathrooms and a safe and accepting environment for all students.

Sincerely,



Scott Coltrane  
Interim President