**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

ASG Joint Resolution 11

Author(s): Tracie Bellinger, President of RSO Pregnancy and Parenting on Campus; Stacy Kimbrough, GSC Facilities Committee Chair; and Eleanor Sello, Treasurer of PAPOC.

Sponsor(s): Kristen Callahan, GSC Representative; ASG Senator; Macarena Arce, ASG Senator & Treasurer Elect; Christine Carroll, ASG Senator; Shelby Comack, ASG Treasurer; Drew Dorsey, ASG Campus Life Committee Chairman; and Hannah White, ASG Senator, GSC Rep Garrett Jeter, GSC Vice Speaker Arley Ward, GSC Marketing and External Affairs Co-Director Katherine Wilkinson, GSC Rep. Alex Marino, GSC Rep. Leah Morse, GSC Treasurer Korab Vranovci, GSC Parliamentarian Josh Burbridge, GSC Speaker Scout Johnson, GSC Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Director Jesse Sims.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A CAMPUS WIDE LACTATION ROOM POLICY FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS**

WHEREAS, The U of A does not have a campus wide policy regarding the creation, use, and standards for lactation rooms; and

WHEREAS, few buildings (Administration, Union, Walton, and Bell Engineering) have dedicated space for lactating mothers, while few others have space available by request (Pat Walker Health Center and Gearhart), none of these have been created in accordance with a set of standards; and

WHEREAS, generally, colleges, departments, and university offices currently respond to lactating mothers with ad hoc solutions (conference rooms, storage closets, private offices) which can provide temporary or conditional relief to mothers who know who and how to ask, but of little to no benefit for students, visitors, and many employees; and

WHEREAS, 26% of all undergraduate students are parents, according to a national study by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research,1 while parenting among graduate students remains understudied but presumably as much or higher; and

WHEREAS, only 33 percent student parents complete their degrees within six years, compared with the national average of 54 percent,2 despite the fact that student parents on average have higher GPA’s than non-parents;3 and

WHEREAS, student parents are likely to face special issues and concerns and deserve policies and resources that recognize their dual roles as students and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of breastfeeding are well documented, including recommendations for breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months (minimum), followed by a mix of nursing and solid food for at least two years. The many benefits to breastfeeding include the promotion of sensory and cognitive development, the development of the immune system, and even the reduction of infant mortality. It is economically and environmentally beneficial. Breastfeeding reduces the risk of ovarian and breast cancer in the mother, and breast milk contains vital nutrients and ingredients that cannot be obtained from formula;4 and

AND WHEREAS, the following campus partners endorse this action: Susan Stiers, Associate Director for Off-Campus Student Services; Angela Reyna, PAPOC member; Lance Austin; Gerrit Den Herder; Rebecca Estep, Vice President of PAPOC; Justin Lee, Sr., Vice President PAPOC & VP Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society; Ebone Allen, Secretary for PAPOC; Edith Figueroa, PAPOC member; Hilda Sanchez; Sarah Kueter; Associate Vice Chancellor and Executive Director of Pat Walker Health Center, Mary Alice Serafini.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FAYETTEVILLE,**

That ASG Senate, Graduate Student Congress, and registered student organization Parenting and Pregnancy on Campus support the creation of standards for the design, access, and location of lactation rooms as have our peer public research universities and flagship campuses the University of Michigan5  and University of Iowa,6 and in agreement with guidelines developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.7

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

That the Associated Student Government Senate, Graduate Student Congress, and registered student organization Parenting and Pregnancy on Campus support the creation of minimum standards including but not limited to a clearly marked private, clean, and accessible space (not a restroom) with a lock, occupancy sign, comfortable seating near a table and electrical outlets, with adequate lighting and climate control, and reflecting the diversity of our campus when considering location, frequency, and hours of availability.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

That ASG Senate, Graduate Student Congress, and registered student organization Parenting and Pregnancy on Campus support the creation of recommended standards that improve this resource beyond minimum standards including but not limited to ability to locate lactation rooms using well-known campus tools such as campus maps, ability to schedule room use, and the inclusion of amenities such as a sink, refrigerator, microwave (for sterilization), or breast pump.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

That the Associated Student Government Senate, Graduate Student Congress, and registered student organization Parenting and Pregnancy on Campus of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, request lactation rooms are included in new building and renovation plans going forward.

1<https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/C451-5.pdf>

2<http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/newborn/nutrition/breastfeeding/en/>

2<https://iwpr.org/higher-education-must-change-to-reflect-shifting-student-demographics-january-8-2015/>

3<http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/college-affordability-for-low-income-adults-improving-returns-on-investment-for-families-and-society>

4<http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/newborn/nutrition/breastfeeding/en/>

5<https://hr.umich.edu/benefits-wellness/family/work-life-resource-center/lactation-resources/lactation-room-setup-guide>

6http://www.facilities.uiowa.edu/pdc/designstandards/2016%20University%20of%20Iowa%20Design%20Standards%20and%20Procedures.pdf

7<https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/assets/docs/breastfeeding/business-case/easy-steps-to-supporting-breastfeeding-employees.pdf>

*Official Use Only*

Amendments:

Senate Vote Count: Aye \_ Nay \_ Abstentions\_\_\_\_

GSC Vote Count: Aye \_ Nay \_ Abstentions\_\_\_ \_

Legislation Status: Passed\_\_\_\_ Failed\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Will Watkins, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Scout Johnson, GSC Speaker Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Connor Flocks, ASG President Date