

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #212 on February 8, 2016:

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks shares the University's commitment to establish and to maintain a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students regardless of gender;

WHEREAS to help achieve this goal, the University has adopted policies of inclusivity, including using gender neutral words and/or gender inclusive language in the majority of its policies, regulations, handbooks, websites, and other official publications;

WHEREAS the continued use of the terms "freshman" and "freshmen" by official university websites, publications, policies, and regulations to indicate first year students excludes women by definition and is therefore inherently sexist;

WHEREAS several leading universities have in recent years begun using first year student (or first-year) instead of freshman in an effort to demonstrate their inclusivity;

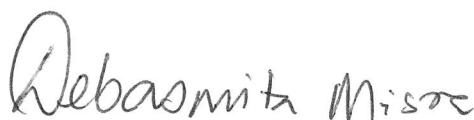
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The UAF Faculty Senate recommends that the University begin using the inclusive term "first year" or "first-year" instead of "freshman," and "first years" or "first-years" for "freshmen," in all official university publications, websites, and oral and written statements by University officials.

Rationale:

The University continues to use the terms, "freshman" and "freshmen," on official websites* and other publications although these have long been recognized as being non-inclusive, sexist terms. We have been successful in replacing many sexist words, e.g. postal worker for postman; firefighter for fireman; chairperson or chair for chairman; police officer for policeman; and humankind for mankind. It is time for UAF to be inclusive in all of its publications.

*examples:

Freshman Checklist <http://www.alaska.edu/stayontrack/did-it-in-4/freshman%20checklist/>
Freshman Year <http://www.alaska.edu/getontrack/parents/planning/checklist/freshman-checklist/>
Freshman Progress Reports http://www.uaf.edu/reg/pdfs/freshmen_progress_reports.pdf
UA Institutional Research http://www.alaska.edu/files/bor/120927_First_time_Freshman.pdf
[Statewide also is behind the times in its failure to use non-sexist language. By passing this Resolution, UAF Faculty Senate can help the entire University of Alaska to become more inclusive in this use of language.]



President, UAF Faculty Senate