



State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
Undergraduate Student Association

**105<sup>th</sup>**

**Legislative  
Session**

**State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry**

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Introduced: January 25th, 2018  
Final Reading: February 1st, 2018

Final Action: Passed

**Resolution: 02.1718**

*A Call for Refinement and Adjustment Within the Course Evaluation Process at ESF*

**Action Requested**

The Undergraduate Student Association recommends that the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) Academic Governance body endorse the following resolution:

**Resolution**

**Whereas**, course evaluations allow students to reflect on their course and provide constructive feedback to improve, critique, and criticize the courses and instructors at ESF; and

**Whereas**, course evaluations are the primary source of feedback on professors and courses used by ESF departments and administration for general purposes as well as in the tenure process; and

**Whereas**, students have approached department chairs and administrators about challenges and/or issues within their courses and been told that their best option was to wait until post-semester to fill out course evaluations; and

**Whereas**, course evaluations being offered solely at the conclusion of each semester hinders instructor's ability to adjust and improve their classes over the course of a semester; and

**Whereas**, course evaluations being offered solely at the conclusion of each semester empowers students to bring about change, but only for future students enrolling in a given course; and

**Whereas**, course evaluations being offered solely at the conclusion of each semester, in some cases, discourages participation in evaluations due to factors such as preparation for final projects, tests, presentations, increased job searching, and lack of personal stake in course evaluations; and

**Whereas**, students should not have to wait an entire semester before having the opportunity provide formal, documented feedback and express concerns and/or issues regarding classroom learning; and

**Whereas**, lack of student participation in course evaluations allows for administrative complacency regarding improvement of sub-par courses, based on lack of data; and

**Whereas**, mid-course feedback is critical for assessing and improving the retention of first-year, traditional, and transfer students; and

**Whereas**, the ESF Undergraduate Student Association (USA) is the central body to which students bring up concerns regarding classes; and

**Whereas**, USA strongly believes in real-time course feedback; therefore,

***Be it resolved***, that USA recommends that ESF establishes mid-semester course evaluations to be implemented by the Fall 2018 semester; and

***Be it further resolved***, that USA recommends that both mid-semester and post-semester evaluation submission dates and window length be standardized across courses and offered for no less than ten days; and

***Be it further resolved***, that USA recommends that both mid-semester and post-semester evaluation submission windows be listed on the academic calendar and announced similarly to how add/drop dates are communicated to students; and

***Be it further resolved***, that USA recommends that ESF mandate students complete both mid-semester and post-semester course evaluations, and the evaluations will be considered requirements for every course offered at the college. This could be in the form of a pass/fail grade for an assignment, a hold on a student's account in the case that evaluations are not completed, or some other option; and

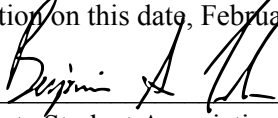
***Be it further resolved***, that USA recommends that ESF develops a separate feedback page within myESF for students to provide anonymous, documented feedback on course matters that are more immediate in urgency; and

***Be it further resolved***, that USA recommends that administrators and department chairs consider mid-semester and post-semester course evaluations as well as feedback given on the myESF page when gauging instructor performance; and

***Be it further resolved***, that USA commits to engaging students regarding the significance and importance of course evaluations to encourage increased participation; and

***Be it finally resolved***, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to ESF Academic Governance Executive Chair Klaus Doelle, ESF President Quentin Wheeler, ESF Provost and Executive Vice-President Nosa Egiebor, ESF Associate Provost for Instruction Scott Shannon, ESF Vice-Provost and Dean for Student Affairs Anne Lombard, SUNY Student Assembly President Marc Cohen, ESF Graduate Student Association President Ryan Scheel, and the full ESF student body via USA President Ben Taylor.

This bill is true and accurate copy, passed by the Association on this date, February 1st, 2018.

  
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Undergraduate Student Association President