

A Resolution in Support of the Bidet Initiative on Campus

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

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Endorsers: Muslim Students' Association, Indian Muslim Student Association (IMSA), Pakistani Student Association, Arab Student Association, Zackariah Farah, Magda Wojtara, Islamic Society of Ahlul Bayt, Max Stoneman, Brandon De Martinez

Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, it is evident that the lack of bidets, including bidet showers, has been a foremost concern for students at the University of Michigan, including at the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;² and,

Whereas, in a survey conducted regarding bidets on campus and existing difficulties (results in Appendix A), hundreds of respondents indicated that bidets remains one of the most significant barriers in utilizing campus restrooms, they would like to see bidets or at least bidet showers on campus restrooms, including on campus-affiliated buildings, dormitories, as well as locations such as the Michigan Union, Trotter Multicultural Center, and Pierpont Commons;^{3,4} and,

Whereas, the current lack of bidets and bidet showers on campus restrooms has compelled a large number of students to look for alternative sources of sanitary cleansing;⁵ and,

Whereas, it is clear that bidets are an essential part of the spiritual and physical cleansing of several sizeable groups that are a part of the student body, particularly international students and those of Muslim background;⁶ and,

Whereas, in many Muslim and Hindu societies, dictated by religious or cultural norms, as well as that of MENA, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, bidets are commonplace in restrooms to assist in ablution and bodily cleansing;^{7,8}

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² Bidet Interest Form

³ Ibid.

⁴ This data was acquired by reaching out to interested and affected student groups as a way of gauging campus interest. These data are not intended to be representative of the whole student body, but to show that a significant number of students would like to see this initiative succeed.

⁵ Bidet Interest Form.

⁶ [Arab Cultural Awareness](#)

⁷ [Vice: A Muslim's Guide to Anal Hygiene](#)

⁸ [Islamic And Hindu Customs Wipe Out Need For Toilet Paper](#)

Whereas, a number of other institutions, including the University of Tulsa,^{9,10} the University of Florida,¹¹ and the University of Waterloo,¹² in the United States and Canada have taken the lead on ensuring bidets can be found in certain campus-affiliated buildings; and,

Whereas, UMich Housing Knowledge Base permits a bidet to be requested as either a medical accommodation through the Housing Information Office, or as a religious/cultural accommodation from Diversity & Inclusion / Housing Information Office, such measures fail to tackle the larger outstanding problem afflicting the campus population as evidenced by student concerns and the lack of general accessibility.¹³

Be it therefore resolved, that students are encouraged to fill out the [Bidet Initiative Interest form](#) to express if the lack of bidets on campus has affected them in a significant manner, and;

Be it further resolved, in the pursuit of equity and inclusion, LSA SG commits itself to partnering with relevant organizations such as Muslim Students' Association to address outstanding concerns stemming from the lack of bidets, and;

Be it finally resolved, that the LSA SG shall endeavor to pursue a line of communication with the Trotter Multicultural Center and support efforts aimed at tackling the absence of bidets on campus.

⁹ University of Tulsa: John Mabee Hall

¹⁰ UTulsa: A guide to bidets on campus

¹¹ University of Florida: Cypress Hall

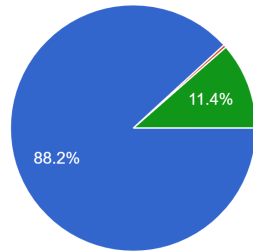
¹² Waterloo: Culturally Inclusive Restrooms

¹³ Community Living at Michigan: Community Living Standards 2020-2021

Appendix A

Do you think the current lack of bidets on campus negatively impacts your ability to utilize public restroom spaces?

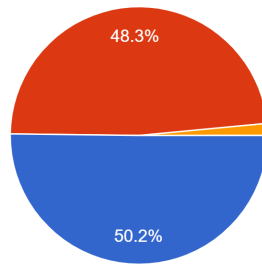
263 responses



- Yes, the lack of bidets is amongst the foremost barrier I face in using restrooms on campus and compels m...
- I am an alumni of the University of Michigan and the lack of bidets was a significant barrier I faced in my time o...
- I am a faculty, staff, or work/teach in some capacity at the University of Mic...
- No, the lack of bidets in campus restrooms has not affected me in any...

Do you prefer to have bidet showers (a hand-held triggered nozzle) or bidets on campus?

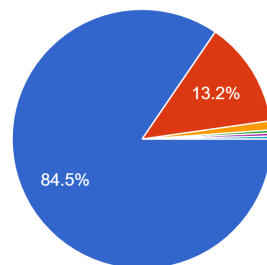
265 responses



- I would like to have both bidet showers and bidets available on campus restrooms
- I want to have AT LEAST bidet showers on campus restrooms, but also hope to see bidets present
- I do not want to see bidets or bidet showers on campus restrooms

If interested, where would you like to see bidets on campus? If other, please list other buildings specifically in where you would like to see bidets.

265 responses



- All campus-affiliated buildings including dormitories
- The Michigan Union and the Trotter Multicultural Center
- Nowhere on campus, we do not need bidets
- Pierpont Commons
- Kim there are people dying
- Chem building, MATH building, Shapiro, Union, Trotter

If you reside in a Michigan Housing dorm, are you aware that you have the option to have a bidet installed by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

265 responses

