

**RESOLUTION PRESENTED FOR A VOTE JUNE 1, 2013,  
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF WILSON COLLEGE**

WHEREAS, Wilson College, founded in 1869 as a college for women, has operated continuously for 145 years as a women's college;

WHEREAS, women's colleges today continue to offer a critical alternative to coeducation;

([https://www.mtholyoke.edu/about/womens\\_college\\_research\\_study](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/about/womens_college_research_study));

WHEREAS, Wilson's enrollment and financial challenges – which everyone agrees are substantial – can be addressed successfully through efforts involving all College constituencies that do not include making the undergraduate, residential College for Women coeducational;

WHEREAS the current President, authorized by the Board of Trustees of Wilson College, convened the Commission to Shape the Future of Wilson College in 2012, but it has been well-documented (and reflected in the interim results of the Wilson College Women-sponsored survey of members of the Wilson community) that:

- The Commission process resulted in many strategic ideas, but was incomplete and rushed,
- Many data gathered were biased and inaccurate,
- Good suggestions submitted by members of the Wilson community were set aside or discarded,
- The Commission never issued a final recommendation indicating that Wilson should become coeducational across all programs;

WHEREAS the Board's decision on January 13, 2013, to make Wilson coeducational across all programs was based largely on the President's insistence that coeducation was the only financially sustainable option, although neither the consulting group (Stevens Strategy) nor the Commission recommended the coed option;

WHEREAS more than 1,500 alumnae – including former Trustees, major donors, and others – through letters to the Commission and Board, emails, conversations, social media, and other mechanisms (e.g., signing a Pledge and Recommendation on the <http://pinesandmaples.com> website, and signing a petition [<http://www.change.org/petitions/keep-wilson-college-a-women-s-college-reverse-the-co-ed-decision-now>]) have voiced their unequivocal support for Wilson to remain a women’s college;

WHEREAS teams of alumnae all over the United States and in other countries, have volunteered to work in concert with College staff to assist with student recruitment and retention, fundraising, and marketing should Wilson remain a women’s college;

WHEREAS, a team of alumnae in December 2012 launched a matching fund campaign, called Double It!, that raised \$81,808 in 25 days from 242 donors (72 of whom had never given to Wilson or had stopped giving) to show their support for Wilson as a women’s college, and demonstrate to the Board of Trustees that alumnae could work effectively with College staff to benefit Wilson;

WHEREAS, there is no comparable expression of support for Wilson as a coeducational institution;

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:**

We, Wilson College alumnae, oppose the Board of Trustees’ vote on January 13, 2013, to make Wilson College coeducational across all programs. We ask Trustees to reverse their decision and instruct the President to cease immediately all actions to make the undergraduate, residential college coeducational. We recognize that the College faces significant challenges in terms of enrollment, fundraising, and student retention. We pledge to assist Wilson in these and other efforts to ensure that the undergraduate, residential College for Women survives and thrives.