Resolution on THE PRESERVATION OF FORESTS ON WEST CAMPUS
(Resolution 2015-03)

Whereas, Duke University defines itself as a “University in a Forest”\(^1,^2\);

Whereas, natural areas on Duke University’s campus provide invaluable aesthetic, health and wellness benefits to students, faculty and staff\(^3\);

Whereas, natural areas on Duke University’s campus provide habitat for ecologically important wildlife, such as salamanders, neotropical migratory birds and locally rare shrubs;

Whereas, members of the Biology department and Nicholas School of the Environment continue, as they have for decades, to use natural areas on campus as research sites\(^4\);

Whereas, long-term successional study sites, such as those found in the forests on Duke University’s campus are rare, and the opportunity to continue research on these lands is valuable to the scientific community writ large\(^5\);

Whereas, faculty and instructors use forests on campus for pedagogical purposes (e.g., Ecology for a Crowded Planet, Forest Measurements, Wildlife Surveys);

Whereas, Anderson Woods and Chapel Woods are the two most significant tracts of forested land remaining in immediate proximity to the heart of West Campus\(^6\) [See exhibit 1];

Whereas, the Penn Pavilion was recently constructed within Anderson Woods

Whereas, a new Student Wellness Center will soon be constructed within Anderson Woods; and

Whereas, any construction of additional buildings in Anderson Woods or Chapel Woods constitutes a permanent loss of ecosystem services valued by the campus community and a degradation of student quality of life; now, therefore be it:

Resolved, that GPSC asks the Duke Administration:
1. Declare Anderson Woods and Chapel Woods permanently protected natural areas, thus abstaining from using these areas for construction of new buildings or utilities;

2. Erect signage along the borders of Anderson Woods and Chapel Woods indicating their respective protected status’ and outlining the areas’ natural, cultural and scientific histories;

3. Implement improvements to Anderson Woods and Chapel Woods commensurate with their protected status including formal landscaping at existing entrances;

Signed,

Signed: Ben Shellhorn  
President,  
Graduate and Professional Student Council  
Candidate, JD/MBA 2015  
ben.shellhorn@fuqua.duke.edu  
347-237-0027  

Movant: R. Scott Winton  
Candidate, PhD in Environmental Science & Policy  
scott.winton@duke.edu  
919-434-4835  

Second: Jessica Lewis  
Candidate, PhD in Environmental Science & Policy  
jessica.lewis@duke.edu  

Date: March 1, 2015
Principles and Goals for the Duke Campus (revised 2012) URL

From the Duke Admissions webpage (http://admissions.duke.edu/setting/campus): “The Duke campus sits within natural areas where tall pine, pine-hardwood, upland hardwood and bottomland hardwood trees are preserved.”


Exhibit 1: Map of Duke University's West Campus with Chapel Woods and Anderson Woods delineated