Lactation Room Statement and Proposal
Equity & Inclusion Committee,
School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, University of Washington

Statement:
The School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS) provides a welcoming, accessible, private, secure, and clean lactation room for those who attend, work and visit the school. Having a lactation room helps to support the education, work, and research of students, staff and faculty within the department and those connected with the SAFS community.

Proposal:
At SAFS, some of the students, staff, faculty, and visiting scientists are nursing parents. Recently, a temporary lactation room has been made available at the department. This is a great facility that the department provides, especially because the nearest existing lactation stations are about an 8- to 10-minute walk away (UW Map of lactation stations). They are at the Life Sciences Building (W Stevens Way NE, Room 108), UW South Campus Center (1601 NE Columbia Rd, Room 311B), and UW Creative Commons (3900 7th Ave NE). In practice, having a lactation room at SAFS will help improve accessibility for nursing parents to integrate work with their familial responsibilities. Increasing accessibility to a lactation room will particularly benefit visiting scientists and students who have limited breaktimes of 15-30 minutes. We fully support having a lactation room, and request having one available as a facility at SAFS.

A well-stocked facility would have the following amenities:
- comfortable and easy to clean chair(s) (e.g., zero gravity foldable chair, faux leather recliner with ottoman),
- small fridge,
- sealable plastic bags for storage of bottles, etc. to minimize contamination in fridge
- a side table and larger-sized table,
- changing table,
- garbage bin,
- low lighting option (e.g., dimmable floor lamp)
- cleaning supplies (e.g., Simple Green and paper towels)
- timesheets or calendar on door for reservations and access to fridge,
- signage with expectations of users, including cleaning up after oneself, and
- posters with resources available at UW.

To access the lactation room, a key can be temporarily checked out from the SAFS Front Desk. As well, if storage space is needed for items such as breast pumps, secure lockers are available on the first floor and combination locks are available to sign out at the SAFS Front Desk.
Support from SAFS E&I Committee:
The SAFS Equity & Inclusion Committee can help with the following:
- compile information about this facility and service for display on the SAFS website, SharePoint, and on posters throughout the department.
- coordinate with Building Maintenance, Facilities Management, and cleaning staff to ensure that the room is stocked and clean, and that sign-up sheets are posted.
- collect and summarize anonymous data on a monthly basis to provide information on how much the room is being used
- answer questions from users that can be directed to SAFS E&I, as stated on posters.