



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/29/2015
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #20
2 Campus Records to Promote LGBTQ+ Inclusivity
3

4 ABSTRACT: This resolution aims to create a safer and more inclusive environment for LGBTQ+
5 students by allowing the use of a preferred name other than their legal first name and indication of
6 preferred gender identity on campus records.
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9 Sponsored by: Dustin Liu '19
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11 Whereas, the primary name of the student is currently used for all official university business including
12 certification of enrollment or degree, diploma, official transcript, Cornell ID card, email and
13 written communication.
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15 Whereas, the method by which to change one's primary name involves the completion of a name change
16 form and a copy of a US passport, a birth certificate, and a court issued document which creates
17 a highly inaccessible process.
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19 Whereas, Cornell has stipulated a commitment to inclusion to involved novel approaches to improve
20 campus culture and our demographic composition.
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22 Whereas, past studies indicate a direct correlation between student success rate with campus' level of
23 gender inclusivity.
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25 Whereas, 30% of the LGBTQ+ students do not characterize the climate at Cornell as respectful or
26 moderately respectful according to the Spring 2013 PULSE survey and compiled on the diversity
27 dashboard of the University factbook.
28

29 Whereas, other universities such as Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania and New York
30 University allow for students to have their name changed to reflect gender identity and gender
31 expression on ID cards.
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33 Whereas, in the case Powell v. Schriver, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that it is
34 "beyond a doubt" that transgender status is "excruciatingly private and intimate" for those who
35 wish to keep it private.
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37 Whereas, there is currently no method to change student gender via a self-service option in various
38 internal university systems, such as Student Center, and there is no option for indicating a
39 preferred gender identity;
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41 Whereas, Title IX of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and the U.S.
42 Department of Education has stated that Title IX's prohibition of sex discrimination
43 encompasses gender identity.
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45 Whereas, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act indicates that under federal law, parents or
46 guardians and students over the age of 18 have the right to request the student's school to

47 change the student's name and gender marker on the student's records if the student finds that
48 they are incorrect, misleading, or violate their privacy.

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50 Be it therefore resolved, the name change process be in the form of a self service that would not need
51 the disclosure of legal documents such as items from doctors or therapists.

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53 Be it therefore resolved, Student Center and other campus records will undergo software changes in an
54 effort to include additional pronouns as described on the "Gender Inclusive Pronouns" page of
55 the Cornell LGBT Resource Center website,

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57 Be it therefore resolved, the University creates a webpage that clearly details the policies and procedures
58 to changing one's preferred name and/or gender identity on campus records.

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60 Be it finally resolved, the use of the students' preferred name and gender will be used on ID cards and
61 other campus records unless the student's legal name use is required by law or the student's
62 preferred name use is for intent of misrepresentation.

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64 Respectfully Submitted,

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66 Dustin Liu
67 *Freshman Rep, Student Assembly*

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69 Philip Titcomb
70 *LGBTQ+ Representative, Student Assembly*

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72 Jordan Berger
73 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*

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76 *(Reviewed by: Health and Wellness, 10/27/2015)*