



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/22/2015
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #20

Preferred Name on ID Card to Promote LGBTQ+ Inclusivity

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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 on campus
6 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
16 change form and a copy of a US passport, a birth certificate, and a court issued document which
17 creates 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.

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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**, Title IX of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and the U.S.
38 Department of Education has stated that Title IX's prohibition of sex discrimination
39 encompasses gender identity.

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41 **Whereas**, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act indicates that under federal law, parents or
42 guardians and students over the age of 18 have the right to request the student's school to
43 change the student's name and gender marker on the student's records if the student finds that
44 they are incorrect, misleading, or violate their privacy.

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

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Be it therefore resolved, the University creates a webpage that clearly details the policies and procedures to changing one’s preferred name on campus records.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Dustin Liu
Freshman Rep, Student Assembly

Philip Titcomb
LGBTQ+ Representative, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Diversity Committee, DATE)