

A RESOLUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KENTUCKY, REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY ADOPT AN INTUITIVE SYSTEM FOR CHANGING NAMES ON ALL UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTING EXCEPT WHERE THE USE OF LEGAL NAME IS NECESSARY.

WHEREAS: The process for trans students to change their name on Blackboard and email services involve tedious steps where one would have to contact the Director of LGBTQ Services, then the IT Department, and then the request would be filed to the University directory, and

WHEREAS: Northern Kentucky University does not specifically delineate a name change policy for students, and

WHEREAS: Northern Kentucky University does not present students with the option to have their preferred name used at Commencement, and

WHEREAS: Northern Kentucky University correspondingly does not allow students to change the name on their All Card to their preferred name, and

WHEREAS: This does not promote NKU's Student Success Objective of Inclusive Excellence as it creates barriers for trans students to identify the way that they choose to identify, and it foreseeably alienates trans students who do not wish to publicly identify as trans, and

WHEREAS: The President of the Gender Initiative, Celes Dreyer—a current student at NKU—states that a more intuitive system could be created with very little work, such as an online form that everyone could fill out at their discretion similar to the password change system. This could be hosted, for example, as a separate web page similar to the one NKU uses to schedule flu shots for students, staff, and faculty, and

WHEREAS: Other universities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including the University of Kentucky, have taken similar measures. The University of Kentucky added an area to its SAP system where students, faculty, and staff could choose to place a preferred name that would be the primary field to populate University databases, and

WHEREAS: The University of Louisville is the only 5-star rated institution on the Campus Pride Index in the South by Campus Pride, an organization that gives ratings based on the institutions friendliness to the LGBTQ community, and

WHEREAS: Northern Kentucky University currently has a 3.5-star rating on the Campus Pride Index and the Director of LGBTQ Services, Bonnie Meyer, believes that NKU's Campus Pride Index rating could rise if this proposal were to be implemented given the University's other efforts to further LGBTQ inclusiveness such as the implementation of Flex Housing and the creation of the Office of LGBTQ Programs & Services, and

WHEREAS: Northern Kentucky University is an increasingly diverse and open community that is committed to supporting all communities represented within the student body. Adopting a consistent and intuitive system to allow trans members of the student body to identify themselves in a way reflective of their inner life and experience is paramount to our progress toward being a community of the utmost inclusiveness and moral integrity.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, ON THIS EIGHTEENTH DAY OF APRIL 2016, THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KENTUCKY, REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY ADOPT AN INTUITIVE SYSTEM FOR CHANGING NAMES ON ALL UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTING EXCEPT WHERE THE USE OF LEGAL NAME IS NECESSARY.

Signed: _____

Katherine M. Hahnel, President

Attest: _____

Bradley Blankenship, Senator

