



Associated Students of Western Washington University
Student Senate
Brought by Ben Crowther

A Resolution Regarding Name and Gender-Marker Change Policies

November 2012

WHEREAS, current University policy only allows students to update their legal name, not their preferred name, by providing a photocopy of (a) a corrected Social Security card showing the new name, (b) a letter of confirmation for a new Social Security card showing the new name, or (c) court order documents (divorce, name change, adoption) showing the name change; and,

WHEREAS, this policy makes name changes inaccessible to many students, as current law requires a \$155 fee, students may have to miss class or work to attend their court date, and students may be forced to out themselves in court to explain the reasoning for their name change; and,

WHEREAS, a student's legal name populates multiple documents, including Web4U and class rosters where preferred name ought to populate instead; and,

WHEREAS, the University does not currently have a written policy for students seeking to change their gender-marker; and,

WHEREAS, students have a right to know the appropriate processes through which they can update their records; and,

WHEREAS, students and the University have a vested interest in keeping records accurate and up-to-date as inaccurate and out-of-date records can threaten the safety of students should they be inadvertently outed in class by an inaccurate class roster; and,

WHEREAS, new policies ought to be as accessible to students as possible and should therefore limit any financial or legal burden; and,

WHEREAS, students ought not be asked for gender confirmation from any authority (e.g., social worker, surgeon, doctor, counselor, etc.) in order to change their gender-marker as gender is an identity claimed not a status assigned; and,

WHEREAS, the AS Strategic Plan upholds the value of inclusion and a commitment to diversity and non-discrimination;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students calls upon the University to adopt policies allowing a student to change their gender-marker and update their preferred name that do not impose financial or legal burdens upon students.