Preferred Name Protection Resolution

WHEREAS, Indiana University respects the right of its community members to use names other than their legal names to identify themselves and acknowledges that a "preferred name" can and should be used wherever possible;

WHEREAS, it is further understood that only the person's preferred name shall be used in all university business, communications, education, and reporting, except where the use of the legal name is required by university business or legal need;

WHEREAS, if university officials see an individual’s preferred name as well as their legal name, this may disclose the individual’s transgender identity to the university official;

WHEREAS, if a university representative addresses the individual by their legal name, thereby failing to understand the importance of the individual’s preferred name, this may out the trans-community member to those overhearing the conversation; and

WHEREAS, being addressed by the individual’s legal name, rather than their preferred name, undermines the identity and self-worth of the individual, causing unnecessary stress for that individual.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Graduate and Professional Student Organization Assembly that –

(1) IT systems prioritize student ID number and preferred name;
(2) Legal names be hidden in as many instances as possible; and
(3) Campus entities needing a legal name, must request and be granted access to the information from data stewards.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Organization Assembly on this 1st day of November 2013.

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GPSO President        Date