



Student Government Resolution 119.009

A Resolution Supporting the Removal of “Dead Name” Initials From Student Usernames Sponsored by Shania Montúfar, Diversity Committee Chair; Lizzie Cremer, Diversity Committee Vice Chair; Sam Tillman, Joshua German, Kavya Singh, Diversity Committee Members

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University’s mission; and
- On October 21, 2019 the Diversity Committee hosted a focus group in conjunction with Dr. Tyana Lange, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing, and Dr. Tara Hart, Director of Admissions; and
- The focus group was hosted in order to discuss diversity and inclusivity in Truman's marketing, admissions, and retention efforts with leaders of identity-based student organizations; and
- In this focus group, several transgender students expressed concern over the inability to remove their “dead name” initials from their student username; and
- A dead name is the name that a transgender person was given at birth and no longer uses upon transitioning¹; and
- Student usernames are used in Truman email addresses and other university-affiliated accounts such as Blackboard and TruView; and
- The Strategic Plan for Truman State University from 2016-2020 lists as a main goal to “Catalyze and sustain organizational change which reflects a deeper commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, and which enhances accessibility and promotes excellence in all aspects of the Truman Experience”²; and
- The current inability of transgender students to alter their student username forces them to continue using their dead name; and

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/deadname>

² <https://www.truman.edu/about/mission-vision/strategic-plan/>

- The continued use of their dead name risks outing students and subjecting them to related discrimination; and
- The Diversity Committee has worked closely with Dr. Lange and Dr. Hart to resolve the issues expressed at the focus group; and
- Dr. Lange and Dr. Hart have communicated with Truman ITS and are “working on a process to be able to remove ‘dead name’ initials from emails.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Greatly values the feedback of student leaders who participated in the focus group on October 21, 2019; and
- Extends our gratitude to Dr. Lange and Dr. Hart for diligently promoting inclusion and accessibility in marketing, admissions, and retention efforts; and
- Strongly supports the efforts of Dr. Lange and Dr. Hart in developing a process for students to change their usernames in order to remove their dead name initials; and
- Urges the creation of such a process by Spring 2020; and
- Requests the dissemination of information surrounding this process through the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, the Registrar, and the IT department; and
- Shall continue to promote accessibility and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT:

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Janna Stoskopf, Vice President for Student Affairs; Brad Turnbull, Interim Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion; Dr. Tyana Lange, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing; Dr. Tara Hart, Director of Admissions; PRISM; TruTrans; Donna Liss, Information Technology Services; The Office of Special Collections; and the Truman Media Network.

Passed 14-1-1, December 08, 2019.



Deanna Schmidt, President of the Student Association.