

**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**University Senate**

**Resolution on the Right for Self Identification**

32-14/15-EX – May 5, 2015

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate of Humboldt State urges the campus to adopt operating procedures that would allow students, faculty, staff and administrators to choose how they are identified by the University; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That this choice include but is not limited to identifying information such as campus user ids (i.e. abc123@humboldt.edu), university identification cards, learning management systems, and names on class rosters, but not student or employee identification numbers or records which must be maintained for legal purposes.

**RATIONALE:** Currently identifying information used at Humboldt State University is based on an individual's legal name according to the Social Security Administration, and is automatically assigned without input from the individual. This policy is problematic for a number of students, faculty, and staff who might choose to be identified by a name other than their legal name. The most affected populations include people of the Trans\* community, people who use middle names or nicknames as their preferred names, or recently married or divorced people. The mismatch between legal name and name in use has the effect of making members of the campus community feel unwelcomed or embarrassed, and is particularly detrimental to transgender people because it requires them to out themselves in order to be correctly addressed. Correcting this issue would make for a more inclusive campus. Similar policies have already been adopted at San Diego State University, San Jose State University, and California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo.