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MANDATE

Alteration of MU's Name Change System

Submitted by: Kealan Hilley (Gender Quality Senator and Leader of the Gender & Equality Caucus)

Seconded by: Gender & Sexuality Caucus including Ló Boyle (LGBT+ Senator), Aoife Murray (Social Sciences Faculty Assembly Member), Emma Curran (Independent Senator), Jordan Quinn (Independent Senator), Michelle Corr (Mature Senator), Michaela Waters (HEAR Senator), Rebecca McGlynn (Arts, Celtic Studies, & Philosophy Faculty Assembly Member).

Student Senate notes:

The standing name change policy obliges students to provide state-sanctioned documentation of their personal name to change how it is displayed in university databases, on student cards, and in email addresses. This necessitates students obtain a Name Deed Poll, which remains inaccessible to many due to financial barriers (Stamp Duty Tax of €60, cost of an attorney) and familial stigma.

The legal barriers impeding the alteration of Maynooth's name change system are twofold:

1. The NUI, which issues all parchments for MU graduates, will only present a parchment with the legal name of the graduate.
2. University Fees are claimed from the State on behalf of each student requiring the university to report the legal name of students.

Student Senate notes with concern:

Transgender and non-binary students undergo consistent deadnaming during lectures online and offline. Lecturers' deadnaming of students leads many of their uninformed colleagues and peers to repeat their deadname due to its display on email addresses, student cards and databases. Maynooth University's 'Gender Identity and Expression Guidelines' rebuke deadnaming as a denial of dignity, condemning it under all circumstances unless one is 'legally required' (p. 4) to do so. The NPO Campus Pride records that 261 colleges in the United States allow students to alter how their name is displayed on university documentation, but such precedence has not been established for NUI colleges.

Student Senate believes:

There is no legal requirement for MU to display students' deadnames through student cards, email addresses and lecturer databases. According to NUI policy, the university is only legally obliged to record students' legal names. MU is thereby

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contradicting its 'Gender Identity and Expression Guidelines'. The legal obligation to record students' deadnames does not legally require that MU display them. This is therefore an issue concerning MU policy, not NUI policy.

Student Senate therefore mandates:

The MSU President and VP Welfare and Equality to lobby the university for the implementation of:

1. A dual-name system that enables students to have their personal names displayed on lecturer databases, student cards and email addresses rather than their recorded legal deadnames; and
2. Ceremonial diplomas that coexist with their NUI-issued diploma for all MU graduates displaying their requested personal name on it.