

The Student Government Association of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

Author(s): *Sophomore Senator VanOrsdol*;
Committee: Legislative Assistance Committee

Display Name Preference Resolution

WHEREAS: The Student Association Senate is the representative body for the students of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and the unified voice that affirms students' concerns; and,

WHEREAS: Lack of a policy regarding display names for university emails before the November 2024 Board of Regents meeting allowed students to set a preferred display name in the university email directory. The result of the November 2024 Board of Regents meeting removed the student body's ability to request this change going forward, despite allowing preferred names to be requested in other University Systems, such as Canvas and Self Service; and,

WHEREAS: Students and staff with preferred names displayed on their email addresses have not experienced a reversal in this display since the November 2024 Board of Regents meeting; and,

WHEREAS: Allowing the display of preferred names aligns with the University's 2025 Goal II, stating "USAO is committed to a diverse student body that fosters an integrated and personalized student experience"; and,

WHEREAS: A survey of 75 students showed that 48% go by a name that is not their legal name, and 72% of those students have updated their name in the University Systems that allow the change— Canvas and Self Service— while 69% have not been able to make this change for their domain email address; and,

WHEREAS: Prohibiting the display of preferred names in university emails leads to confusion in student-to-student communication due to discrepancies between the name listed in canvas and the name listed in the directory; and,

WHEREAS: Prohibiting the display of preferred names in university emails increases incidents of student distress due to forced outing, accidental deadnaming, or access to intentional deadnaming; and,

WHEREAS: Several Oklahoma-based institutions have taken the step to allow preferred names to be displayed with their email address, including the University of Oklahoma and the University of Central Oklahoma. Other universities, such as Oklahoma State University, have begun the transition process to allow chosen names "wherever possible in campus systems commonly used by students, advisors, and faculty.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA THAT:

SECTION 1: The Student Government Association urges the University to change the current

name change policy to allow email directories to display student and staff's preferred names.

SECTION 2: Copies of this act shall be distributed to the following: All Current members of the USAO Government Association (SGA) Senate, all current members of the SGA Executive Council, all current members of the SGA Supreme Court, and all current advisors of the SGA.

Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation.

Harry Cracknell

SGA President

Luke Cantrell

SGA Vice President