SGA Resolution 6-20-S

A Resolution to Create an Official First Friends Program
at Middle Tennessee State University

Whereas: International students often have difficulties acclimating to their new surroundings, leaving many students feeling detached from the wider community.

Whereas: First Friends is a program designed to assist international students to explore and navigate American culture and campus life.

Whereas: Members of the university community can share in the unique experiences and culture international students bring from their home countries to create lasting relationships.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 82nd CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

Section 1: The Office Intercultural and Diversity Affairs in partnership with other relevant university stakeholders shall create and manage a MTSU branded First Friends program.

Section 2: This program shall connect willing incoming and currently enrolled international students with members of the university community wanting to participate in the program. Interested American partners must go through a background check and attend a First Friends orientation session. Interested students must also attend an orientation before being able to partake in the program. American partners may include students, faculty, staff and members of the wider community willing to dedicate their time and energy in building a friendly relationship throughout a student’s stay at Middle Tennessee State University.

Section 3: For the avoidance of doubt, American partners are meant to provide a "home away from home experience" for students. Partners and their paired student(s) must mutually decide what kinds of interactions and activities they wish to engage in.

Section 4: The program manager must provide clear rules and guidelines at the commencement of the program. Partners and students are not expected to spend money or use any considerable amount of personal recourses on each other. To
that end, it is not the role of any partner to provide or supply accommodation or funding in any form to students.

**Section 5:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon favorable passage by the Student Government Association.

**Sponsor:** Senator Winton Cooper (Basic and Applied Sciences)