

## **SGA Bill No 1-09-F**

### **A resolution to amend Article II Section 2 in the Constitution of the Student Government Association to add gender identity and expression to the Recognition of Basic Human Rights:**

**Whereas:** Gender identity and expression are not part of the Recognition of Basic Human Rights (Article II Section 2) and not all students fit into the traditionally accepted gender binary system.

**Whereas:** The gender binary system shall be defined as a system that views gender as either traditional male or traditional female, with no exceptions or variations.

**Whereas:** Transgender students and students that express themselves outside of the gender binary system deserve equal treatment and equal services as is stated in Article II Section 2.

**Whereas:** Gender identity and expression shall be defined as a person's gender-related self-identity, appearance, expression or behavior, regardless of the person's assigned gender at birth.

**Whereas:** The United States House of Representatives and Senate has passed The Matthew Sheppard's Act, hate crime legislation, that would protect race, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

**Whereas:** The Tennessee General Assembly, House, has introduced legislation to protect gender identity and expression.

**Whereas:** Shelby County has passed a resolution to protect gender identity when hiring employees.

**Whereas:** Nashville, Tennessee, Metro schools protect gender identity and expression in its non-discrimination policy and Metro has introduced an encompassing policy to protect employees.

**Whereas:** The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, includes gender identity in its non-discrimination policy.

**Whereas:** The Tennessee Board of Regents includes gender identity into its non-discrimination policy.

**Whereas:** The addition of this amendment will promote tolerance around the MTSU campus and affect the campus climate by installing the creation of knowledge, by disseminating and fostering a healthier learning environment. Also, this amendment will show compassion towards SGA constituents and the SGA's willingness to embrace diversity.

### **THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 72<sup>nd</sup> CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:**

**Section 1:** Upon passages of this new amendment Article II Section 2 will read as follows:

**Section 2:** Recognition of basic human rights. All people are deserving of equal treatment and equal services. Neither the Student Government Association, nor any representative thereof, shall violate

these rights on the basis of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, /expression.

**Section 3:** The referendum will read:

“I support amending the Student Government Association’s Constitution to add gender identity / expression to the non-discrimination policy. (Recognition of Basic Human Rights. Article II Section 2).”

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsored by:** Senator Thomas

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Speaker of the Senate

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SGA President

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VP of Student Affairs

Fails on 8/15/09

13 in favor; 7 not in favor; 5 abstain

Friendly amendment passes to strike out ‘Or’ in Section 2 and insert a slash (/), and in section 3 strike out ‘and’ insert a slash (/)