



S. Res. 41

To show support for marginalized and underrepresented communities on James Madison University's Campus

IN THE STUDENT SENATE OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

SENATOR MATTHEW HERSHBERGER SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF SGA
REPRESENTATIVE CHARLENE NGUYEN.

A RESOLUTION

To create a safer and more productive inclusive environment regardless of race, religion, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, and any other personality or identity trait.

Whereas, James Madison University is committed to diversity, equality, and the rights of the students and faculty, so therefore should respect every student's identity and pronouns.

Whereas, the university's vision to be a national model of the engaged university is unattainable if students cannot fully engage in their classes, organizations, internships, and other impactful educational practices due to fear of ridicule.

Whereas, the Student Government Association of James Madison University is an organization dedicated to collaborating with all members of its community to advocate for holistic education and opinion.

Whereas, it is the duty of the Student Government Association to represent all undergraduate and graduate degree seeking students enrolled at James Madison University.

Whereas, it would be beneficial to a liberal arts institution for faculty to include a part in their syllabi about inclusivity in the classroom to secure a safe but thoughtful learning environment.

Whereas, it would be beneficial and inclusive of all students attending James Madison University if professors reached out to students to learn of preferred pronouns, names, genders, etc.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Student Senate of James Madison University,

That the Student Government Association formally request that all professors and teachers at James Madison University promote inclusivity and welcome diversity in the classroom and throughout campus by reaching out to students prior to the start of each semester to provide the opportunity to disclose preferred pronouns,

name, gender, etc. and to also include a section on syllabi emphasizing a welcoming and inclusive environment, similar to the example below:

“There is a long history of dialogue and activism around how we address one another, with respect to both names and pronouns. Students should be referred to by the name they prefer, and with the proper pronunciation, by faculty and other students. I will gladly honor your request to address you by the name you prefer and gender pronouns that correspond to your gender identity. Please advise me of your name’s proper pronunciation, and any name or pronouns not reflected on MyMadison early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. James Madison University is dedicated to an environment of learning that encourages civil discourse and ideological progress. Respect is of the utmost importance in this classroom and beyond, and those who choose to respect every person’s ideas and identity chooses success and positive progress.”