Title:  RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT PHOTO CLASS LISTS

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Resolution Number: 7.08-09

1. WHEREAS the mission of the University is to promote the continued improvement of teaching and learning; and
2. WHEREAS research has shown that having student photos available to faculty allows faculty to learn student names and thereby produce a more welcoming and safe environment for student learning to occur; and
3. WHEREAS Alexander Austin stated in What Matters in College (1993) that two things that made the biggest difference in getting students involved in the under-graduate experience were greater faculty-student interaction and greater student-student interaction, and although learning student names may seem a trivial matter in the entire university enterprise, it is a powerful means to foster both of these interactions; and
4. WHEREAS student photos are already taken for the student ID card and stored on UW computers, and this photo data could be tapped and photo class lists made available as an option for the faculty and teaching assistants at their MyUW teaching page (a password protected site); and
5. WHEREAS adding student photos to class lists would promote a greater sense of community and identity among the faculty, teaching assistants and students which in turn would create a stronger and more vibrant community of scholars at the University of Washington,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

6. THAT the Graduate and Professional Student Senate of the University of Washington strongly endorses the University’s effort to supply a photo class list as an option to all teaching faculty; and
7. THAT faculty and teaching assistants would be informed to treat student photos with the same degree of confidentiality as they do all student information (student ID numbers, grades, etc.).

Presented to GPSS for approval on January 20, 2009
Approved on March 4, 2009