

DEPAUW STUDENT GOVERNMENT

A Resolution Concerning The Sharing of DePauw Students' Personal Information Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS...A student's birthday, which is not public knowledge, is covered as directory information under the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

WHEREAS...DePauw students have the right to privacy. DePauw's Policy on Privacy states: "DePauw University understands the importance of protecting the privacy of personal information, especially in today's increasingly electronic environment."

WHEREAS...DePauw University gives personal information such as names of students and birthdates to stores in the Greencastle Community. We find this distribution to be unethical.

WHEREAS...DePauw strives to create connections between students and the local community. The birthdate book causes more problems than the University administration realizes. As patrons of the local stores and restaurants, our students of legal drinking age sometimes experience harassment from employees. Students are often stopped at stores until an employee looks up their confidential information that is already on the student's driver's license. DePauw prides itself on the integrity of their students in the classroom and community, but the birthdate book suggests that the administration does not trust their students. This affects how our students view the University administration, and creates a divide between students, the university, and the community.

WHEREAS...The birthday book affects how businesses treat local residents who look like they are college-aged, but are not students at DePauw. "Walmart employees judge, profile, and evaluate their customers if they go to DePauw or not, which is a double-edged sword. Either they don't question someone who doesn't look like a DePauw student who actually is a DePauw student, which makes the book a waste, or they accuse a local of being a student and not being in the birthday book and therefore their ID should be a fake since they aren't in the book, even though they are legal," said Taylor Beegle, '16.

WHEREAS...Concerns have been brought to DePauw Student Government from international students and students who have taken a semester off about being refused service at local businesses. These concerns include students who have taken a semester off not being in the book, and refused service despite having a valid ID, and international students having slightly different names in the birthday book than on their IDs. These students have also experienced harassment in these circumstances, despite being of age with valid identification.

WHEREAS...Birthdates are commonly used as identifying information by insurance companies, government agencies, and pharmacies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the DePauw University registrar and other appropriate parties shall look into the current system regarding the birthday book to determine whether the birthday book has benefits that outweigh its detriments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Employees with access to the birthday book shall undergo training in confidentiality, not profiling students, and how to appropriately handle the birthday book if the book continues to be used. DePauw University shall work with each local business to ensure this training is completed before the birthday book is provided to the local business.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The DePauw University administration should more publicly disclose that the information is being released. The students should also be told why this information is allowed to be circulated for “health and safety reasons.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The DePauw student body should be well informed of how an individual may opt out of this Birthday Book, and clarify that directory information defined by FERPA guidelines includes name and birthdate.

Motioned by:
Senator Signature:
Aye _____
Nay _____
Abstain _____

Seconded by:
Representative Signature:
Aye _____
Nay _____
Abstain _____

Attested by:

(Secretary)

Approved by:

(President)

(Executive Vice President)

April 17, 2016