I. POLICY PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this Policy is to define the process of requesting an individual name change within University records and systems. The University has an interest in promoting diversity and inclusion in the University environment as to how students identify themselves. The University also has an interest in maintaining accurate records as well as protecting student education records pursuant to federal and state regulations.

When designated by a student, FAMU will use a preferred name in all University documents and systems where possible except where use of the legal name is required by University business or there is a legal need. The University will maintain the student’s legal name as it is reflected on the person’s social security card as the legal name of an individual.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Students may change their first name to a preferred name in iRattler Student Center. Preferred name change may affect class roster, diploma, FAMU ID card, self-service advisee list, self-service class roster, and student’s email account.

Students may change their legal name on the official FAMU transcripts, degree verifications, or financial records by providing appropriate legal documents. Appropriate legal documents include court orders, marriage license, divorce decree, birth certificate, naturalization papers, driver’s license/photo ID card, and valid passport (international students name on the visa must reflect the name change).

The University reserves the right to remove a preferred name if it contains inappropriate or offensive language or is being used for misrepresentation. In addition, this service may be modified, changed, altered, or rescinded at the discretion of the University.

II. DEFINITIONS (as applicable)

Legal Name – the formal name that is reflected on a birth certificate or by subsequent court order.

Preferred Name – a nickname by which the individual prefers to be called (e.g., “Bill” for “William”).

IV. PROCEDURES (if necessary)

A. Students who wish to change their legal name on official FAMU records must submit a completed Change of Personal Information Form to the Registrar’s Office (registrardocs@famu.edu) with copies of appropriate legal documentation attached for
verification. The form is available on the Registrar's website (https://www.famu.edu/academics/registrar-office/index.php) under FORMS.

Note: Although a name may be changed in the academic record and on the official transcript, the prior name(s) will be maintained in iRattler for cross-reference.

(1) Current students who change their name may also contact Information Technology Services to change their email address.
(2) Students receiving financial aid are advised to contact the Office of Financial Aid to determine if the name change should also be completed on federal records.
(3) Students who legally change their name are advised to obtain a new FAMU identification card.

B. Post-graduation (Alumni): The University will not permit a name change request for records post-graduation.

Larry Robinson, Ph.D.
President

Maurice Edington, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Attachments: None
Hyperlink Addresses: https://www.famu.edu/academics/registrar-office/index.php