February 28, 2017

MacEwan University rolls out preferred name and gender identity options

Edmonton – MacEwan University students, staff and faculty will now have the option of identifying a preferred name in university systems, and students will have the option of changing their identified gender, empowering each person to define their own identity.

Up until now the university’s systems have only kept legal names and gender on file and this has led to some frustration and confusion as class rosters, email address books and directories have identified people in a way that contradicts their preference.

“The change is part of a larger effort to bring the university to a place of greater inclusion,” said Michelle Plouffe, vice-president, general counsel and compliance officer. “It came about as part of some initiatives we’re working on to support gender and sexual minorities, so we’re making changes to allow people to be who they are and as an institution it’s a priority to support students this way.”

Students can also update their gender identity to either male, female or gender minority. “We’d prefer to have a blank space for people to fill in how they identify, but currently our system just doesn’t allow us to do that,” added Plouffe. “So the Gender and Sexual Minority Working Group landed on ‘gender minority’ as a recommendation because it was more inclusive.”

“The university is proud to have taken this step and it’s only the beginning of a major shift toward a more inclusive environment,” said Plouffe. “We have to keep moving forward because this is what our students want and it’s what our university community wants.”

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

For further information, please contact:
David Beharry, Media Relations Advisor
780-497-5586
Cell: 780-231-5954
Email: beharryd@macewan.ca

Get MacEwan University news delivered to your inbox. Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter.