WHEREAS, the mission of the University is to promote the continued improvement of teaching and learning; and

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

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

WHEREAS, student photos are already taken for the student ID card and stored on UW computers, this photo data could be tapped and photo class lists made available as an option for the faculty at their MyUW teaching page (which is a password protected site). Faculty would be informed to treat student photos with the same degree of confidentiality as they do all student information (student ID numbers, grades, etc.); and

WHEREAS, adding student photos to class lists would promote a greater sense of community and identity among the faculty and students which in turn would create a stronger and more vibrant community of scholars at the University of Washington; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate strongly endorses the University’s effort to supply a photo class list as an option to all teaching faculty.

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
April 23, 2009

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
April 6, 2009

Submitted by:
Mary Pat Wenderoth, Chair
Faculty Council on Instructional Quality
April 6, 2009

Approved by:
Faculty Council on Instructional Quality
January 15, 2009