A RESOLUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KENTUCKY, TO INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY THROUGH A PETITION AND STUDENT INITIATIVE WEBSITE.

WHEREAS: Student activism at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) appears to have reached a new high, and it is the responsibility of the NKU Student Government Association (SGA) to ensure that student voices are being heard, and

WHEREAS: The explicitly-stated function of the NKU SGA is to, “A) Serve as the official representative body of the students, and B) Protect and promote the rights, as well as advocate for the best interests, of all Northern Kentucky University students through listening to our peers, learning about the problems, and acting to find solutions” as per Article I of the organization’s Constitution, and

WHEREAS: An online petition website, such as the one used by the Student Government of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), would increase student engagement on campus by creating a method for all NKU students to directly petition the SGA regarding problems and conflicts with or around the university that require a student’s perspective to identify, learn about, and find a solution to, and

WHEREAS: The implementation of a petition and student initiative website would increase student involvement with, awareness of, and provide more readily-available access to inclusive processes that are already available to students to initiate positive change on campus, including but not limited to the student initiative, referendum, and recall procedures as specified in Article VIII of the SGA’s Constitution, and

WHEREAS: The current complaint and suggestion options available to students on the SGA website only alert a select few executive board members, while a petition website would provide for greater openness and transparency, and

WHEREAS: An online petition website would allow SGA Senators to be able to see suggestions and complaints immediately instead of having to wait to hear about them from the executive board and would allow members of the SGA to respond to, and even begin crafting legislation based upon, petitions in a timely fashion, and

WHEREAS: An online petition website would increase direct student involvement in the SGA and ensure students that their concerns and voices are being heard by their duly elected representatives, providing an increased incentive across the entire student body to take part in SGA elections, town halls, and all other SGA-sponsored activities, and

WHEREAS: Some individuals experience anxiety or other issues that prohibit them from speaking up initially about matters that are important to them, and a petition website would allow for them to voice their opinion once someone has raised the issue, allowing them to more comfortably sign-on after the crucial first step has been made, and
WHEREAS: The Student Government of the RIT has stated that, "[The petition site] has resulted in the implementation of great new initiatives around campus," and

WHEREAS: Chief Information Officer Timothy Ferguson of NKU’s Information Technology Central has stated that “there would not be any costs for the IT effort on this project given that it is a small project,” further clarifying that, “there wouldn’t be any new costs to SGA or NKU,” as it would only require a few hours of IT resources by IT staff, and that the website could be implemented in a few months with guidance from the SGA for administering content and definition of final features.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, ON THIS TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2017 THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY REQUESTS THE CREATION OF A PETITION AND STUDENT INITIATIVE WEBSITE TO INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY.

Signed: ________________
Sami K. Dada, President

Attest: ________________
Adam Zarnowski, Senator

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