

Policy Motion (Network)

Passed by LGBTQ+ Network Open Meeting 5/11/2020

Passed by Welfare and Inclusion Council 25/11/2020

Passed by Student Council:

WSU Policy Number: 2020-21_003

Pronouns Awareness

Proposing Students Name:	Reuben Hoydahl // Eve Baker-Sullivan
Student Number:	20001612 // 19005403
Seconding Students Name	Eden Wright
Student Number:	20004846
Facts: What is the issue you're trying to address? What do we already know about this issue?	
<p>Improving awareness of pronouns (in particular, gender-neutral) and make their use more normal across university settings (e.g., in accommodation and in classrooms etc.)</p> <p>Outside of the LGBTBQ+ Community (Network) pronouns are often not common knowledge and gender-neutral pronouns, in particular, are avoided.</p> <p>Due to online lessons, individuals cannot be as personal with one another, cannot see one another, and cannot communicate individually. This makes it harder to understand a persons gender identity and pronouns.</p>	
Impacts: How does this issue affect students, and in what way? Is it negative?	
<p>Students are reluctant to use gender-neutral pronouns as it is 'too difficult' or they just forget that gender-neutral pronouns exist/assume pronouns. Makes conversations awkward and making new friends more difficult as you feel responsible for constantly correcting them.</p> <p>Students could get misgendered in lectures by lecturers or other students. Asking only trans students to give their pronouns can increase transphobia as it can make them a target.</p>	
Reacts: What would you like the Students' Union to do to address the issue? How do we need to take it forward?	
<p>Sending out information to all staff and students about how to use gender-neutral pronouns and how to approach the topic of pronouns in a more appropriate way.</p> <p>Having some kind of poster/information sheet in accommodations about pronouns so it is easily accessible.</p>	

Add pronouns onto the end of peoples names, for everyone. Everyone should have their pronouns to stop misgendering and it does not single out trans students.