

R W2016.14

Resolution to Raise Awareness about the Improper Use of Gendered Pronouns

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

16 March 2016

Sponsors: Jason Colella, Edward Gotfredson, and Nadine Jawad

Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, University of Michigan’s campus is comprised of other gender identities than just males; and,

Whereas, women total 9,682 students in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (hereafter the College) and males comprise 7,880 students, yet groups of all genders are addressed as “you guys,” by numerous students, faculty, and staff on campus²; and,

Whereas, terms such as “you guys” are masculine terms that do not encompass women nor other gender identities; and,

Whereas, students on this campus deserve to be addressed in regards to their proper classifications in order to break down gender stereotypes and the misuse of generalized pronouns; and,

Whereas, it is our duty as the voice of the student body to promote a cultural shift that encompasses all students.

Be it therefore resolved, LSA SG will use non-gendered language such as “they” and others in all official correspondence including to but not limited to letters, emails from the Executive Board, Direct Constituency Emails, LSA SG Bylaws/Constitution, and resolutions; and,

Be it further resolved, the Diversity Affairs Committee shall be responsible for long term implementation of this project; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG will promote awareness of non-gendered language through the use of flyers, social media, and dialogue in meetings; and,

Be it finally resolved, LSA SG will partner with the College in its efforts to push for greater use of gender neutral language.

¹The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² <http://ro.umich.edu/enrollment/ethnicity.php>