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## Motion for Student Council

December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014

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### Motion Name: Improve Trans Awareness by Introducing Pronoun Introductions across the University

#### Background:

*The current situation, include any relevant information about the issue.*

1. Transgender and non-binary students are continually at risk of being misgendered, which is likely more pronounced within smaller teaching groups (seminars and tutorials) where teaching staff and students tend to be addressed more directly.
2. The success of the LGBT+ #TransAware poster, which recently went viral, suggests students are receptive to changes that will make the university a more welcoming environment for transgender or non-binary individuals.
3. Following a report on Pronoun Inclusion written by Crash Wrigley (a trans woman studying at the University of Oxford) pronoun introductions now take place at most national intervarsity debating competitions. This is where participants are asked to introduce themselves with both their name and their pronouns, to avoid misgendering within debating.

#### Purpose:

*If the motion is successful, what do you want to achieve? What's your vision for the future?*

1. I would like to implement pronoun introductions in seminars and tutorials, to ensure individuals are not misgendered by teaching staff or their peer group.

#### Action:

*How are we going to make your vision happen?*

1. Create a policy whereby teaching staff ask students for their preferred name and pronouns, whilst taking the register for the first seminar/tutorial classes for each group. This record should then be kept on their register and consulted when referring to students. This should not take up much seminar time at all, as it would only be required for the first seminar/tutorial class for each group, and most tutors already ask students for preferred names. Students could then respond with: him/her/they/z etc. or a combination i.e. "she or they".

What would this look like:

Tutor: \*reads name on register, here we'll assume I'm the student\*

Student: Here

Tutor: What is your preferred name and what you're your pronouns?

Student: Chloe is fine, and you can refer to me by she or they.

#### Proposed by:

Your first and last name: Chloe Maughan

Seconder first and last name: Jamie Cross