



Originally Presented on:	12/10/2020
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #25  
2 Including Pronouns and Phonetic Name Pronunciations in Class Rosters

3  
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution is calling for the incorporation of students’ phonetic name  
5 pronunciations and pronouns in all professors’ class rosters.

6  
7 **Sponsored by: Tomás Reuning ‘21, Bo Miebach ‘21, Selam Woldai ‘23**

8  
9 **Whereas,** names and pronouns are central to students’ sense of self;

10  
11 **Whereas,** students with less common, polysyllabic, and/or non-English names often feel pressured  
12 to shorten or “anglicize” their names or have noticed being called-on less than their peers with more  
13 common and/or monosyllabic names;

14  
15 **Whereas,** a national campaign by the National Association of Bilingual Education has found that,  
16 especially for international students and immigrants, incorrect pronunciation of names can hinder  
17 academic progress and can impact a students’ sense of belonging;<sup>1</sup>

18  
19 **Whereas,** the correct pronunciation of students’ names is essential to creating an inclusive learning  
20 environment for the diversity of names and cultures represented in the Cornell’s student body;

21  
22 **Whereas,** increasing the normalization of stating pronouns creates a more inclusive environment  
23 for transgender and nonbinary people;

24  
25 **Whereas,** studies demonstrate that misgendering transgender and non-binary youth has detrimental  
26 effects on their mental health;<sup>2</sup>

27  
28 **Be it therefore resolved,** the University should include students’ name pronunciations and  
29 pronouns on all class rosters;

30  
31 **Be it further resolved,** this should be optional for all students out of consideration for transgender  
32 or non-binary people who may not yet be “out;”

33  
34 **Be it finally resolved,** the University should implement this change prior to the start of the Spring  
35 2021 semester, in the interest of creating a more inclusive learning environment as soon as possible.

36  
37 **Respectfully submitted,**  
38 Tomás Daniel Chávez Reuning ‘21  
39 *LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*

40  
41  
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/a-teacher-mispronouncing-a-students-name-can-have-a-lasting-impact> <sup>2</sup> <https://www.childtrends.org/research-shows-the-risk-of-misgendering-transgender-youth>



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- 42 Bo Miebach '20  
43 *President, Queer Professional Community*  
44  
45 Selam Woldai '23  
46 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly* Transitioning at Cornell  
47  
48 *(Reviewed by: Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 8-0-1, 12/8/2020)*  
49

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/a-teacher-mispronouncing-a-students-name-can-have-a-lasting-impact> <sup>2</sup> <https://www.childtrends.org/research-shows-the-risk-of-misgendering-transgender-youth>