TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate  
FROM: UFS Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Committee  
RE: Resolution on Gender Neutral Language in All SUNY Correspondence  
DATE: 180th Plenary, October 18-20, 2018  
LOCATION: SUNY Binghamton  
RESOLUTION #: 180-01-01  
VOTE TALLY: For: 39; Against: 6; Abstain: 0  

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS the SUNY Board of Trustees September 10, 2015 Resolution “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy” desires to “make SUNY the most inclusive higher education system in the country”; and

WHEREAS SUNY seeks to be respectful of all members of our community; and

WHEREAS SUNY respects each person’s right to determine their own identity; and

WHEREAS transgender matters have gained increasing attention in recent years, and academic writing and communications can better reflect a range of gender identities and be inclusive of transgender people; and

WHEREAS most notably, the use of male and female pronouns (he/him/his, she/her/hers) is being challenged, and many argue for the acceptance and use of they (i.e. not s/he, which is still based on a binary notion of gender) as an epicene—a gender-neutral singular pronoun:

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UFS requests the Chancellor to require gender-neutral pronouns they/their/theirs be used instead of the current practice of using gender specific pronouns he/she in all SUNY communications from the Chancellor’s office or system administration, such as websites, policy documents, press materials, reports, recruiting materials, etc.

BACKGROUND:


