

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Label:** SGAB-58008

**Date introduced:** November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Author(s):** Chief of Staff, Bonnete; Vice President, Alghafir

**Sponsor(s):**

**Committee:** Internal Affairs

**Draft:** First read

**Pronoun Acknowledgment Bill**

**Whereas**, the University of Houston aspires to be a national leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion<sup>1</sup>;

**Whereas**, the University of Houston has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award for its outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion<sup>2</sup>;

**Whereas**, students at the University of Houston have differing gender conformities and gender identities that are recognized by the university<sup>3</sup>;

**Whereas**, the University of Houston Student Government Association represents students of the LGBTQIA+ community;

**Whereas**, The University of Houston Student Government Association recognizes the need for all students to comfortably address others and be addressed by their respective pronouns;

**Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://uh.edu/nsm/about/dei/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://uh.edu/news-events/stories/september-2021/092021-heed.php>

<sup>3</sup> <https://uh.edu/lgbtq/resources/files/heteronormativity-brochure-2019.pdf>

Members of the Student Government Association must refer to others by their respective pronouns, and include their pronouns next to their name whilst using virtual platforms for meetings.

**Be it further enacted**, that Title 2 (6) (1) (2), of the Bylaws be added;

**Be it further enacted**, that Title 2 (6) (1) (2) read; “Members of the Student Government Association must include their pronouns next to their names in SGA related meetings held virtually. Those who refuse to comply or include pronouns in an inappropriate manner will face removal.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rohit Shajan

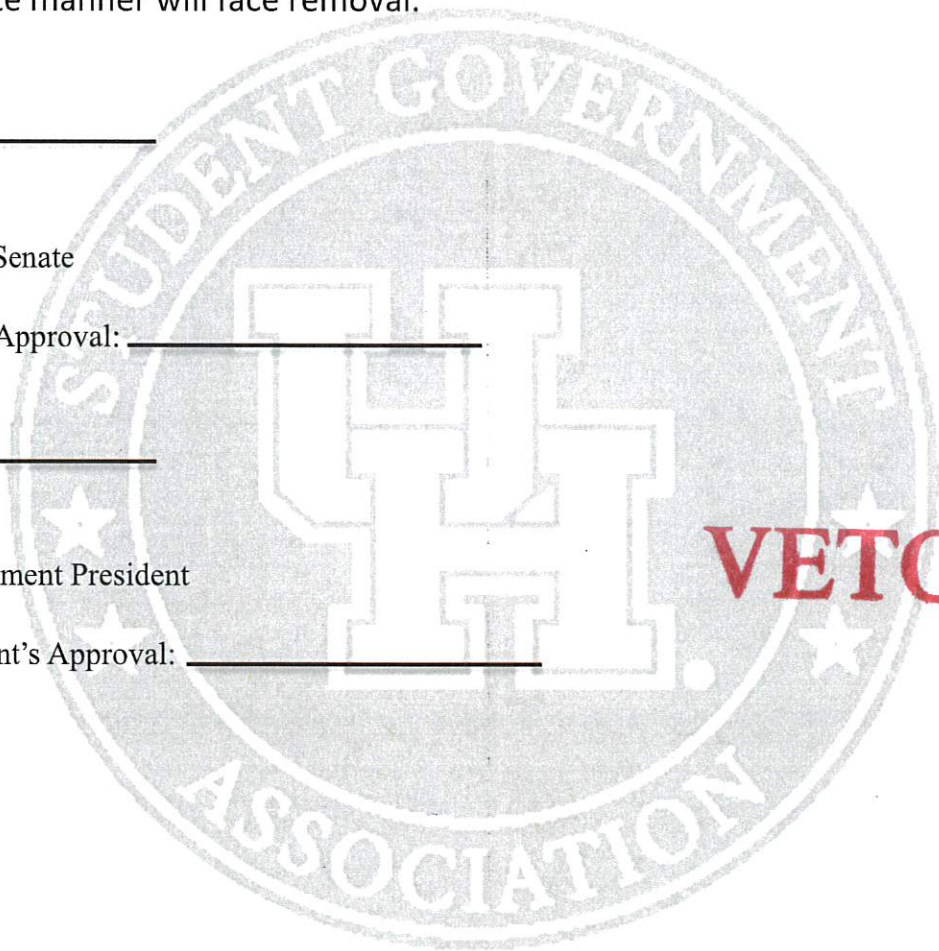
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arsalan Darbin

Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: \_\_\_\_\_



**VETO**



## Pronoun Acknowledgement Bill Veto Memorandum

In order to provide a safe and inclusive environment in our meetings, students should be welcome to express their identities as they see fit. During its introduction, the bill's author referred to a study finding that trans-students "who could use a chosen name or pronoun" experienced significant improvement in their mental health. That condition already applies here as anyone can add their pronouns while participating in SGA's virtual meetings. Furthermore, threatening to remove members from the organization for not adding their pronouns is an unprecedented penalty as no such language is used in our governing documents. Determining punishments should be decided by the Judicial Branch to ensure fair proceedings and prevent future conflicts.

—Arsalan Darbin, March 31, 2022

