ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

***University of California, Santa Barbara***

***Senate Resolution***

**Subject:** A Resolution in Support of Free Speech

**Author:** Reilly Hobson **Second**: Matt Greenberg

**Number**: \_\_ **FPP**: \_ \_\_\_\_

**Bill Type:**  Position Paper **Vote Required for Passage**: \_ 50%+1 \_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION***

recommends to the A.S. Senate that the following action be taken:

Pass As Written: Pass With Amendments: \_ Do Not Pass: \_ \_

Refer To Committee: \_

Recommended by a Vote Of: \_ Chairperson's initials: \_

***STUDENT -SPONSORED LEGISLATION***

Student Sponsor: Student Co-Sponsor: \_

The Student-Sponsored Resolution Liaison has insured that this Student-Sponsored Resolution is correct in its form and adherence to the *ASUCSB Legal Code*.

Pass As Written: Pass With Amendments: \_ \_ Do Not Pass: \_ \_

Refer To Ad-Hoc Committee:

##### *FISCAL IMPACT*

Amount: $ 0 Account:

##### A Resolution

In Support of Free Speech

**Whereas:** Freedom of expression is an inalienable right guaranteed to all UCSB students which is recognized by the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, the California State Constitution (Article 1, Section 2), California Education Code 66301, University of California Board of Regents Policy 3303, and Article 2(E) of the Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of California, Santa Barbara; and,

**Whereas:** Free expression is a nonpartisan goal, neither liberal nor conservative, and is a common interest of all students attending UCSB, and;

**Whereas:** A policy encouraging UCSB students to report on each other for vaguely defined offenses creates a restrictive environment for free speech on campus, which runs contrary to the open and free academic environment that UCSB attempts to foster, and;

**Whereas:** Numerous students and student clubs at UCSB have expressed concern about limitations on free expression; and,

**Whereas:** Many reputable free speech organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union have condemned the implementation of campus speech codes banning hate speech, with the ACLU saying that “Speech codes adopted by government-financed state colleges and universities amount to government censorship, in violation of the Constitution,” and;

**Whereas:** Freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression are central to **t**he core mission of the public university, where all ideas, no matter how sacred or controversial, are open to be questioned and challenged;

**Therefore let it be resolved by the Associated Students in the Senate assembled:** That we stand in full support of the right to free expression at UCSB, and in condemnation of any and all UC and UCSB policies that infringe upon this right for any reason whatsoever; and,

**Let it further be resolved:** The condemnation of these UC and UCSB policies should not conflict with the UC Regents Principles Against Intolerance.

**Let it further be resolved:** That our support for the right to free speech should not be taken as an endorsement by this Senate of any particular form of speech, and that we can support the right to free expression even when we strongly disagree with what is being said; and,

**Let it further be resolved:** That we request the Campus Regulations Committee continue to review all speech codes under its jurisdiction and make any and all modifications necessary to facilitate students’ free speech rights and remove language that restricts free speech; and,

**Let it finally be resolved:** That we respectfully encourage UCSB students to make the most of their time at this prestigious university by embodying the “spirit of free expression,” by being willing to face viewpoints that differ from their own without attacking anyone’s character or ulterior motives, challenge their own deeply held beliefs, and question everything that is presented to them, anywhere on campus, without being restricted to “free speech” zones.

CC:

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