

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
University of California, Santa Barbara

Senate Resolution

Title: A Resolution in Support of the 2019 UCSB BSU Demands Team			
Author	Zion Solomon	Second	Dallin Mello
Number		FPP	
Bill Type		Vote	

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS RECOMMENDATION

Grammatical Recommendations	
Structural Recommendations	
Legal Code Violations	
Pass with Amendments	
Table	

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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	<i>Sam Sanchez, Taylor Jackson</i>
<i>The Student Sponsored Liaison has insured that this Student-Sponsored Resolution is correct in its form and adherence to the AS UCSB Legal Code.</i>	

FISCAL IMPACT

Amount		Account	
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[A Resolution in Support of the 2019 UCSB BSU Demands Team]

WHEREAS: On March 22, 1965, “an African American female student [was] attacked at knifepoint in front of the De La Guerra Annex by a male wearing a white cloth hood who whispered ‘Selma’ to his victim” and;

WHEREAS: In October 1967 Black students were repeatedly denied housing in Isla Vista displaying a culture of racial discrimination and;

WHEREAS: On January 31st, 1968 “Associated Students Legislative Council made a gesture against racial prejudice by recommending to the UCSB Administration that no company practicing discriminatory employment policies be allowed to use campus facilities”

WHEREAS: On October 1st, 1968 “BSU and a small group of Black athletes presented Chancellor Vernon I. Cheadle a position paper charging the Athletic Department with gross negligence of and paternalistic attitudes toward Black athletes”. Rather than meetings these demands or believing these students and the racial discrimination they experienced, Chancellor Cheadle responded by “referring the matter to the Intercollegiate Athletic Commission (IAC) on campus for further investigation”. A rally was held in response to the lack of actions by the university. There BSU leader Bob Mason said to a crowd of 400 students, “It was changed from charges of racism to the inability of the athletic staff to perform its functions. They avoided the charge of racism completely.” and;

WHEREAS: Only due to repeated acts of discrimination and silencing, Harambee (Swahili word meaning ‘lets pull together’), the sister organization to BSU, evolved into a more politicized group, “responding to UCSB’s administration's unwillingness to address and correct the segregation and institutional racism on its campus” and;

WHEREAS: 50 years ago, on October 14, 1968, because of events previously mentioned, “students collected over 4,000 signatures demanding substantial improvements in the investigation of racism on campus and the development of Black Studies”. Due to continuous “inadequate response to such demands” from UCSB administration, the North Hall takeover consisted of “over 1,000 students, the majority of which were sympathetic students of all racial backgrounds shouting chants of support”

WHEREAS: With intense pressure, Chancellor Cheadle responded to their demands by creating a Committee on Ethnic Studies and in September of 1969, Black Studies courses were made available at UCSB. “The creation of the Center for Black Studies Research and the Black Studies Library followed soon after” and;

WHEREAS: “Upon the suggestion of the Associated Student Judicial Committee, the administration agreed to “suspended suspensions” for the original students occupying the computer center” during the Takeover and;

WHEREAS: In 1969 “Bill James becomes the first African American Associated Students UCSB Student Body President” and;

WHEREAS: While Black students at UCSB have always been in the minority, the non-Black students and Associated Students has had the ability to play an integral role in their demands being heard by UCSB administration and;

WHEREAS: Since 1968, Black UCSB students have had to fight on the behalf of Black students, staff, and faculty in order to be acknowledged and respected as people of value. Over 50 years since the North Hall takeover, Black students must continually fight to have their humanity recognized and appreciated, which takes time away from students' abilities to study, learn, and become wholly involved as campus community members and;

WHEREAS: The University has continually been unable to fulfill Black students' demands without the intervention of Black students on campus who address this inability. The University's reliance on Black student intervention in what should be structured efforts to support Black students is unacceptable and;

WHEREAS: The University system as it stands, specifically that at UCSB, does not institutionally support the health and well being of Black students, as it does not create an environment conducive to that of which a Black student could succeed academically or holistically. In order to address the structural inefficiency and lack of regard for the success and health of Black students, we have created the following list of demands and;

WHEREAS: On February 8th, 2019, during a meeting with the current UCSB BSU Demands team, the Chancellor and the UC Regents, Assistant Vice Chancellor Maria Herrera Sobek made racially insensitive comments that contribute to anti-blackness, hate, and bias at this campus. Quoting from email correspondence to the UC Regents;

“She explained her frustration at a previous Black administrator's work with Black students, even though all those who know said administrator agreed and stated in the meeting that the administrator explicitly advocated for all students at UCSB. AVC Herrera Sobek stated that the administrator did not have much involvement with “Hispanic students” and that it was because of the perceived “focus” on Black students that the administrator was unable to commit themselves to the Chicanx/Latinx student population. She stressed that she wished that the administrator would've focused more on their work with “Hispanic students” and stated that she even brought this issue to the attention of the administrator. She continued to belittle the struggle of Black UCSB students and Black people by minimizing the Black identity as a whole and claiming that “we are all African.” The Chancellor himself appeared to be uncomfortable with her statements, as he hastily attempted to change the subject after allowing her to continue to speak on the issue for quite some time.” and;

WHEREAS: “This iteration of anti-Blackness is not foreign to Black students at UCSB or any university for that matter, but it is especially troubling that it was so overtly displayed by a member of our own administration. Not only was AVC Herrera Sobek's attack on the previous administrator's character irrelevant to our discussion about advancing demands that aim to better our Black community on campus, but it was troublesome for us to hear an administrator whose position is explicitly and solely dedicated to diversity and equity on campus use such apparent anti-Black rhetoric.” and;

WHEREAS: “It was just in November of 2018 that an administrator at Santa Barbara City College used a historically derogatory term to refer to Black people during a meeting and that same word was written on some of SBCC’s property in reference to two students less than a month later. Earlier in 2018, the Black Student Union at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo brought grievances to their administration after a group of white students held a party that encouraged the imitation of Black culture and saw white students photographed in blackface. Black students across the board continue to be undervalued and underserved at an institutional level within university systems and our meeting yesterday proved how ignorant our own administration is to the plights of Black students.” and;

LET IT BE RESOLVED: Associated Students stands behind the UCSB BSU demands, especially noting the displays of anti-Blackness by UCSB’s Administration, since the creation of this very campus and;

LET IT BE RESOLVED: Associated Students Senate will stand as an ally to the Black community, one of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups on campus, making up less than 4% of the student body and;

LET IT BE RESOLVED: Associated Students Senate recognizes the lack of representation as well as institutional support of Black students to “achieve academically and thrive holistically” while facing anti-Blackness

LET IT BE RESOLVED: Associated Students supports the following demands for staff support for Black Students;

The opening of an appointment for the position to be named “Director of Black Student Development” with the position being housed under the Division of Student Affairs, to be directly positioned underneath and supervised by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

None of the funding that is necessary to address this demand comes from the Student Affairs Division and that Student Affairs rightly manage the issues with new funding from the Chancellor’s office. The funding for this position is to be transferred to the Division of Student Affairs immediately upon hiring the candidate and the University must commit to hiring *and* funding a candidate who is rightly qualified at a competitive rate, in order to ensure that we obtain the best fit for the position.

This position will be vital for the assurance of holding the entire University accountable to Black students and Black student development, as well as ensuring that intervention from Black students will not be the only way that the University will choose to proactively tend to the needs of Black students.

This demand is to include the fulfillment of the Chancellor’s promise to fund the proposal of the budget for the Black Resource Committee in its entirety.

and;

LET IT BE RESOLVED: Associated Students supports the demands for staff support for Black Students including the following ;

The Office of Black Student Development

The Office of Black Student Development will strive to support the Black experience at UCSB through four core principles: Advocacy, Academic Success, Recruitment and Retention, and Holistic Support. The purpose is to provide resources, advocate for and help create a positive learning environment, and foster a sense of belonging to assist Black students in achieving academic excellence.

In creating an Office of Black Student Development, the University will recognize that Black students are in need of a concrete implementation of plans to increase the number of Black students in college who graduate and are successful, both during their time at the university and after they leave.

The structure of the office will be as follows:

The Director of Black Student Development

As previously stated, this position will be vital for the assurance of holding the entire University accountable to Black students and Black student development, as well as ensuring that intervention from Black students will not be the only way that the University will choose to proactively tend to the needs of Black students.

The Assistant Director of Black Student Development

This position will support the director in their roles, as well as be integral to the oversight of the office and create strategic partnerships campus-wide to ensure that the entire University is bound to Black student development and success.

Two Academic Support Counselors to assist all Black students with their academic needs and to address achievement gaps.

A Recruitment and Retention Specialist to work directly with the Office of Admissions “Enhanced African American Recruitment Strategies” team to ensure that the University is not only recruiting more Black students in order to increase our Black student population, but also to ensure that we are retaining the Black students that we recruit and creating a livable environment for Black people.

A Coordinator of Black Student Life to address the extracurricular needs of Black students and ensure that the holistic and social needs of Black students are met.

Two Advocacy Counselors to counsel students to help them achieve their academic, career, and personal goals and assess the Black campus community, reporting to the Director and Assistant Director on the struggles of Black people on campus to relay the needs of the Black community to the University.

LET IT BE RESOLVED: Associated Students supports the team's demands for a standalone building for Black students to be funded and the construction for said building begin within two years of this dated agreement. This building is to be named the "Malcolm X Center for Black Student Development" to commemorate the 1968 North Hall takeover where Black students originally demanded the creation of space specifically for Black students ;

LET IT BE RESOLVED: That none of the funding that is necessary to address these demands come from the Division of Student Affairs. That the entire budget, as shown above, must be managed by Student Affairs with new funding provided from the Chancellor's office. The funding must be clearly allocated as permanent, yearly funding and;

LET IT BE RESOLVED: That all of the funding for the aforementioned demands be allocated and all positions implemented within the next two years. This would mean that each position should be filled by February 8th, 2021. Additionally, students are to play an integral role in the hiring of all of the proposed positions and in the creation of the Malcolm X Center for Black Student Development and;

LET IT BE RESOLVED: That Associated Students recognize the labor of the UCSB Black Demands team currently and within the last 50 years in which these demands have been pushed for and;

LET IT BE RESOLVED: That the University fulfill the commitments that it has made to Black students throughout the course of the last 50 years

LET IT BE RESOLVED: That the Associated Students Office of the President and the Associated Students Executive Director together with the student sponsors of this resolution to write a letter in support of the 2019 UCSB Black Student Union Demands Team to the Chancellor by Week 7 of Winter Quarter and;

LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 69th ASSOCIATED STUDENTS SENATE ASSEMBLED:

<http://scalar.usc.edu/works/livinghistoryproject/black-student-organizing>

https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb0g500369&brand=oac4&doc.view=entire_text