

THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

**Bill Number:** Senate Resolution # 2018-12  
**Title:** ASI Against White Supremacy  
**Sponsored by:** Senator for the College of Health and Human Services Leen Almahdi and Senator-at-Large Thulani Ngazimbi  
**Co-Authored by:** Social Justice and Equity Committee  
**Date Submitted:** March 28, 2018  
**Date Approved:** April 11, 2018

**WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and

**WHEREAS** CSULB seeks diversity through “multiple dimensions including race, ability, socio-economic circumstances, cultural identities, and experiences,”<sup>1</sup> and President Conoley has taken on the initiative of “Inclusive Excellence,” which strives to “increase efforts to address numerous diversity-related issues;”<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS** the ASI mission statement cites that we are “Committed to the principle of student self-determination in the shared governance of the university, the Associated Students of CSULB seeks to facilitate the achievement of students’ educational objectives and life goals through programs, services, and facilities that advocate student needs and interests, compel student representation in campus decision making and provide students with resources that they identify as necessary for their intellectual, social and physical development;”<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS** it is our duty as student representatives to speak upon broad issues and individual incidents which negatively impact the safety of students contained within our campus’ diverse communities and their right to live and work in an environment free of unwarranted prejudice, discrimination, and violence on the basis of those irreversible and distinguishing traits which they hold as human beings; and

**WHEREAS** white supremacy is defined as “a political, economic and cultural system in which whites overwhelmingly control power and material resources, conscious and unconscious ideas of white superiority and entitlement are widespread, and relations of white dominance and non-white subordination are daily reenacted across a broad array of institutions and social settings;”<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS** James Baldwin, author and social critic explained “Whiteness is a dangerous concept. It is not about skin color. It is not even about race. It is about the willful blindness used to justify white supremacy. It is about using moral rhetoric to defend exploitation, racism, mass murder, reigns of terror and the crimes of empire;”<sup>5</sup> and

**WHEREAS** to support white supremacy of any form on campus, including speech rooted in white supremacy that targets and disempowers students, does not align with the ASI mission statement or ASI’s values;<sup>6</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> <http://web.csulb.edu/depts/oed/policies/faculty-staff-diversity-plan.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://web.csulb.edu/misc/inside/2016/07/18/inclusive-excellence-commission-looks-ahead/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.asicsulb.org/corporate/resources/about-us>

<sup>4</sup> <http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/10001659/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/james-baldwin-and-the-meaning-of-whiteness/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.asicsulb.org/corporate/resources/about-us>

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- WHEREAS** speakers supporting exclusionary rhetoric that targets students of color, queer students, and other historically underrepresented students, feeds into the normalization of white supremacy, and institutional support, conscious or unconscious, of these speakers creates an environment of unwarranted prejudice, discrimination, and violence; and
- WHEREAS** the ideology of white supremacy has been rooted and justified in the United States since European colonist arrived in the 1500s; Thomas Jefferson was influential in promoting the idea of race that recognized whites as superior and Africans as inferior, and Jefferson wrote in 1776 in *Notes on the State of Virginia*, "...blacks, whether originally a distinct race, or made distinct by time and circumstances, are inferior to the whites in the endowments both of body and mind;<sup>7</sup> and
- WHEREAS** roughly 61% of Americans believe this country is yet to achieve racial equality;<sup>8</sup> and
- WHEREAS** over 60% of Americans noticed an increase in hatred and prejudice in the United States after Trump was elected President, and 70% of nonwhites share this same sentiment;<sup>9</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that even at CSULB, there have been an increase in hate motivated incidents, to which students still feel unsafe and unsure about what CSULB as an institution is doing to protect them, such as but not limited to:
- On January 25, 2017 vandalism was found in the Liberal Arts 1 building claiming that the lives of Latinx students don't matter<sup>10</sup>
  - On March 13, 2017 anti-Semitic vandalism and fliers were displayed around three different buildings, including the Multicultural Center<sup>11</sup>
  - On April 14, 2017 the University Police failed to notify students of a direct threat against Muslim students where the perpetrator wrote in a men's restroom in Peterson Hall 2 that they will "kill all Muslims on Friday," on their holy day and labelled it as "vandalism"<sup>12</sup>
  - On September 16, 2017 death threats were directly sent to officers of La Raza and anti-Semitic fliers were posted around campus<sup>13</sup>
  - On October 9, 2017 vandalism was found in a men's bathroom near the Liberal Arts building with a slur against the Black/Pan-African community that was meant to dehumanize and threaten Black students;<sup>14</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that the protection of the campus community who are discriminated against based on, but not limited to: race, ethnicity, nationality, citizen status, political affiliation, religion, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, social status, age, and disability, are considered in the drafting of this resolution; and

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.understandingrace.org/history/history\\_trans.html](http://www.understandingrace.org/history/history_trans.html)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/06/27/3-discrimination-and-racial-inequality/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2017/08/16/politics/blacks-white-racism-united-states-polls/index.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.daily49er.com/opinion/2017/01/31/big-discourse-scribbled-hate-speech/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.presstelegram.com/2017/04/18/white-supremacist-fliers-posted-again-at-cal-state-long-beach-campus/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.daily49er.com/news/2017/04/18/crime-blotter-mirrors-smashed-muslims-threatened-in-bathrooms/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.daily49er.com/news/2017/09/19/la-raza-student-association-receives-death-threats-multicultural-center-littered-with-racist-fliers-over-weekend/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.daily49er.com/news/2017/10/11/racial-slur-found-in-lecture-hall-bathroom-at-csulb-on-monday/>

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- WHEREAS** in response to the most recent incident President Conoley stated in an email sent to all members of the CSULB community that they “vigorously condemn messages that demean any group,”<sup>15</sup> now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the ASI at CSULB acknowledges the First Amendment right to free speech, and encourages the exercise of this right while also unequivocally condemning in the strongest terms any form of action that targets, threatens, or incites violence on our campus, our community, and throughout the world; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI will continue to work toward increased programming and events that provide a supportive and safe environment for students who are disempowered by any event that occurs including the incidents listed above; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI will continue to fulfil its duty to represent CSULB students, acting and advocating on their behalf by strongly condemning hate incidents in a timely manner; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI will continue to facilitate productive collaboration, encourage dialogue, and seek input from organizations that aim to further represent Black/Pan-African students, Latinx students, queer students, Muslim students, Jewish students, Asian American/Pacific Islander students, Indigenous American Students and other historically targeted and marginalized communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI recognizes the various resources offered at CSULB and will ensure that targeted communities are provided with information regarding these services available to them; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that ASI and the University continue creating and promoting ally trainings to foster a community of better educated allies for historically marginalized and targeted communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the ASI at CSULB will continue to stand in solidarity with the CSULB student body and members of our community, and will not tolerate hatred, bigotry, or violence — anywhere; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President for Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Dean of Students Piya Bose, Associate Vice President for Student Life/Development Jeff Klaus, Cal State Student Association, all current and future ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Magazine.

*Sofia Musman*  
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 Sofia Musman Vice President &  
 Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

*4/11/18*  
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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.daily49er.com/news/2017/10/11/racial-slur-found-in-lecture-hall-bathroom-at-csulb-on-monday/>

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Nino", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Nino, Associated Students President

Date

A handwritten date "4/11/18" written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Date

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