

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

Bill Number: Bylaw Amendment # 2018-27
Title: Commissioner for Pregnant and Parenting Students
Sponsored by: Senator for the College of Education Emely Lopez and Senator-at-Large Stephanie Argent
Co-Authored by: Commissioner for Women and Gender Equity Affairs Stevie Merino and Chief Diversity Officer Yasmin Elasmr
Date Submitted: April 25, 2018
Date Approved: May 9, 2018

- WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the single recognized voice for over 37,000 students of the university; and
- WHEREAS** Chapter I of the AS Bylaws states that the Senate is to, “Perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by the Senate, by law, by the Articles of Incorporation for the Associated Students, California State University, Long Beach, or by these bylaws;” and
- WHEREAS** these duties include changing the AS Bylaws in order to create the most beneficial and representative system to support students; and
- WHEREAS** according to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), in 2014 approximately 26% of college students nationwide identified as having a dependent child;¹ and
- WHEREAS** pregnant and parenting students are identified as an underrepresented group,² and the CSU system predominantly serves underrepresented groups; therefore the statistics stated above may be an underestimate of the number of students in the CSU who identify as pregnant and parenting students; and
- WHEREAS** there is limited data available regarding how many pregnant and parenting students are served by CSULB or the CSU system at large; however the IWPR reports that the number of students parents is growing;³ and
- WHEREAS** pregnant and parenting students have low rates of college completion and high rates of unmet financial need; while simultaneously facing greater time demands and lacking access to affordable childcare;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** on campus, there is limited access to resources for pregnant and parenting students and there is not a centralized place or staff member who may be contacted regarding the resources available; and

¹ <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/C451-5.pdf>

² <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED556715.pdf>

³ <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/C451-5.pdf>

⁴ <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/C451-5.pdf>

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WHEREAS the 2017-18 Commissioner for Women and Gender Equity Affairs reported at the April 18, 2018 Senate meeting that a majority of their work over a two month span was spent on providing resources and advocating on behalf of pregnant and parenting students, which limited their availability to help the transgender, non-binary, and women identifying students who are also included in the Women and Gender Equity Affairs constituency;⁵ now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Chapter II, Article II, Section 2 of the AS Bylaws will be edited to reflect the following changes to create the position of Commissioner for Pregnant and Parenting Students:

“The Commissioner for Pregnant and Parenting Students is responsible for raising awareness about pregnant and parenting students’ issues and working to ensure that pregnant and parenting students are being represented and properly served on behalf of the President;” and be it further

RESOLVED that the duties of the Commissioner for Pregnant and Parenting Students will include:

- Coordinate events to provide support and awareness to the Pregnant and Parenting Students community on campus
- Collect concerns of pregnant and parenting students and report them to the ASI President to develop a plan to share the information with university administration
- Raise awareness about the pregnant and parenting student community
- Advocate for policy changes and increased resources pertaining to support for pregnant and parenting students
- Hold monthly support groups for pregnant and parenting students in collaboration with the Women’s & Gender Equity Center; and be it further

RESOLVED the Commissioner for Pregnant and Parenting Students will be responsible for attending weekly Cabinet meetings and meeting regularly with:

- Coordinator of the Women’s & Gender Equity Center
- Chief Diversity Officer
- Associate Vice President of Student Life/ Development
- Director of the Isabel Patterson Child Development Center
- Community Clinic for Counseling and Educational Services
- Student Health Advisory Committee
- Any other meetings as deemed necessary by the Chief Diversity Officer or the President; 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, Associate Vice President for Student Life/Development Jeff Klaus, Dean of Students Piya Bose, Vice President for University Relations and Development Andrea Taylor, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Brian Jersky, all current ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Magazine.

⁵ASI Senate Meeting #29. April 18, 2018, Minutes

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Sofia Musman

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

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

Joseph Nino

Joseph Nino, Associated Students President

5/9/18

Date

5/9/18

Date

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