

Student Union Assembly, UC Santa Cruz

A Resolution for Campus Action to Educate Against Hate Motivated Acts Including but Not Limited to Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents¹

Sponsors: Art Motta (MEChA Representative), Israel Molina (Commissioner of Diversity)
Co-Sponsors: Haedyn Christie (QSU Representative), Nazareth Velazco (SANAI Representative), Gul Taneri (Kresge Representative), Winnie Sidhu (Kresge Representative), Tamra Owens (Oakes Representative), Vanessa Sadsad (College Ten Representative), Dylan Hoffman (Porter Representative), and Adham Taman (Porter College Representative).

WHEREAS, we, as a University, take great pride in the diverse backgrounds represented at the University of California, Santa Cruz and our commitment to enhance our great legacy of preparing leaders from all segments of society to make significant contributions all over the world; and

WHEREAS, the University of California, Santa Cruz is a community which requires the free and open exchange of ideas and the widest possible range of opportunity in the pursuit of knowledge in order to thrive; and

WHEREAS, we, as a University, are committed to maintaining an objective, civil, diverse and supportive community, free of coercion, hate, intimidation, dehumanization or exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the campus is dedicated to the promotion and protection of an environment that values and supports every persxn in an atmosphere of honesty, cooperation, professionalism and fairness as reflected in our UCSC Principles of Community²; and

WHEREAS, we, as a University community, strive to create, foster and maintain an environment that provides support for students to feel safe and respected which will in turn enhance their ability to succeed; and

WHEREAS, in the past and near present³ UCSC students have experienced violent hate crimes in the protected classifications as outlined by the California Hate Crime Statutes⁴; and

WHEREAS, protected classifications include, but are not limited to the following characteristics of the victim: disability, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, religion, or association with a persxn or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics; and

¹ For definitions of Hate Crime, Hate- or Bias-Motivated Incident and Hate Speech, see:

<http://reporhate.ucsc.edu/about/definitions.html>

² <http://www.ucsc.edu/about/principles-community.html>

³ At 12:38 a.m. on February 7, UC Santa Cruz Police arrested a male student and a male unaffiliated with campus on suspicion of battery, obstructing an officer, and public intoxication after officers responded to 911 calls of a reported fight at Kresge College. After dispersing the crowd, officers found four male victims with non-life threatening injuries. Although the investigation is ongoing, follow up investigation and interviews revealed the fight broke out because one or more of the suspects perceived that one or more of the victims belonged to a protected classification, as listed in the California Hate Crime Statutes.

<http://police.ucsc.edu/crime-prevention/alerts/crime-bulletin-021115.html>

⁴ <http://oag.ca.gov/civil/htm/laws>

WHEREAS, the California Legislature finds and declares that it is the right of every persxn, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, or handicap, to be secure and protected from fear, intimidation, and physical harm caused by the activities of violent groups and individuals⁵; and

WHEREAS, although the state has enacted numerous laws to oppose acts of discrimination, such intolerance continues to pervade many of our colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, the University of California, Santa Cruz aims to attain a diverse faculty, staff and student population and should be maintained; and

WHEREAS, currently one, five-credit course or equivalent course in Ethnicity and Race that emphasizes understanding of one or more cultures and societies outside the United States, is a graduation requirement in order to prepare students for a state and a world which are increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-racial⁶; and

WHEREAS, beyond familiarizing students with the culture and/or history of one or more ethnic or racial groups, these courses also aim to develop theoretical and practical understanding of questions such as (but not limited to): *how categories of ethnicity and race are constructed; the role they can play in identity formation; how ethnicity and race have historically been used to justify forms of enforced inequality; and the contributions of people of various ethnicities to society and to political change*; and

WHEREAS, these courses are particularly concerned with how ethnicity and race may intersect with other categories, such as gender, class, or sexual orientation, to shape self-understanding and patterns of human interaction; and

WHEREAS, the Student Union Assembly, recognized as the official legitimate voice of the undergraduate student body at the University of California, Santa Cruz, shall use that voice to serve the individual and collective needs of the 15,000+ undergraduate students at UCSC; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Union Assembly condemns hate motivated acts including, but not limited to hate crimes, hate speech and hate incidents aimed at any persxn on our campus and in our community; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Union Assembly demands from UCSC Administration and Academic Senate the inclusion of an identity component to the Ethnicity and Race General Education Requirement for Graduation (enhance ER code "Ethnicity and Race" to ERI code "Ethnicity, Race and Identity"); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly requests College Residential and Academic Administrators to discuss and be proactive in developing and implementing campus policy that positively addresses hate motivated acts, hate crimes AND hate incidents; and

⁵ This is part of Penal Code section 186.21, the "California Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=pen&group=00001-01000&file=186.20-186.34>

⁶ <http://registrar.ucsc.edu/navigator/section3/gened/beginning2010/gen-ed-codes/er-code.html>

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Union Assembly remains supportive of direct actions by student groups that empower communities that are marginalized because of their identities, such as the African/Black Student Alliance's blockade of Quarry Plaza in response to Systematic Police Murder of Black Lives, and supports future actions along these lines; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly demands campus administration and campus leaders including the Chancellor, Executive Vice Chancellor, College Provosts, Residential & Academic Administrators, the Deans, the Department Chairs and the Academic Senate to encourage faculty to speak openly with students informing them that an environment of hate will not be tolerated; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each college have central documentation and reporting of hate motivated acts including but not limited to hate crimes AND hate incidents, and that the report is disseminated annually to the campus community publically; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly supports and encourages continual training for campus faculty and staff regarding diversity and hate motivated acts including but not limited to hate crimes, hate speech, and hate incidents; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly will strongly encourage administration, faculty and staff to enroll in Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program courses provided by the Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SUA Chair write a letter to UCSC Administration, Faculty, Staff and students-at-large condemning hate motivated acts including but not limited to hate crimes, hate speech and hate incidents; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly shall work with existing coalitions of campus student organizations to rise up against hate motivated acts because unchecked, hate activity will continue. The Student Union Assembly shall sponsor community speakouts and open sessions to allow involved students an opportunity to learn, reflect and stand in solidarity.

Introduced: February 24, 2015

Approved with amendments: March 3, 2015