



PROCLAMATION

Associated Students to Affirm Student Voices at HSU

President Jeremiah Finley

Adopted: September 11, 2020

Whereas, The mission of the Associated Students at Humboldt State University is “to provide a means for responsible and effective participation in the governance of the campus; provide an official voice through which students’ opinions may be expressed; foster awareness of these opinions both on and off-campus; assist in the protection of the rights and interests of the individual student and the student body; provide services and programs as deemed necessary by the corporation to meet the needs of the student and campus community; and to stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural wellbeing of the University community”¹ per the *A.S. Constitution*; and,

Whereas, the University Center Board of Directors is comprised of seven student representatives, three faculty representatives, one alumni representative, one community member, and two Humboldt State University administrative representatives ; and,

Whereas, two of the positions on the University Center (U.C.) Board of Directors are Associated Students (AS) Representatives; and,

Whereas, as members of both the A.S. & U.C. Boards those members are charged to, per the governing documents of each organization, California state law, and CSU policy and Executive Orders (EO’s) thereof, participate in the maintenance of all legal, and fiduciary responsibilities of each organization; and,

Whereas, according to the California (CA) Corporations code 5231 section (a) “A director shall perform the duties of a director, including duties as a member of any committee of the board upon which the director may serve, in good faith, in a manner that director believes to be in the best interests of the corporation and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances”² ; and,

Whereas, The A.S. President (or designee) is a member of the University Center Board of Directors charged with also carrying out the directive of CA state law in the corporations code 5231 on the University Center Board of Directors; and,

¹ [A.S. Constitution](#)

² [CA Corporations Code](#)

Whereas, it is also the responsibility of the A.S. President (or designee) to “be entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports or statements, including financial statements and other financial data”³; and,

Whereas, the University Center manages programs and facilities that contribute greatly to the student life of HSU like the CenterArts for entertainment and educational series, CenterActivities, the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center and the Student Recreation Center (SRC) which provide recreational opportunities, drop-in recreation, intramural sports, physical education classes, athletic training, and practice spaces and UC Operations which maintain and operate key meeting and event spaces on campus

Whereas, in the recent months, there have been a multitude of changes within the University Center including but not limited to the removal of the Executive Director, Dave Nakamura⁴, the HSU Administrative initiation of a new dining consultation and potential management contract and/or agreement with Aladdin services⁵, the changing in reporting lines from the Administrative Affairs division to the Enrollment Management Division⁶, the positioning of an Acting Executive Director of the University Center, the attempt to increase oversight on the U.C.’s expenditures, contracts, and agreements on said organization⁷, the unauthorized, unprompted, and unexpected removal of the University Centers Board of Directors legal counsel by the positioned Acting Executive Director as well as the numerous staffing changes that have followed and additional potential unsanctioned activity done by the HSU Administrators under the director of HSU President Dr. Tom Jackson; and,

Whereas, this has happened without the approval and/or formal consultation with the U.C. Board of Directors or a transparent process for the student body to take part in and provide input as these shifts largely took place over the summer months June-August when the student and faculty body at large are on summer break; and,

Whereas, all students across campus both in the past and present pride themselves on being able to participate in the shared and open governance process here at Humboldt State University as demonstrated in A.S. Resolution 2013-14-21 [*A Resolution Calling for Democratized and Student Run CSU Student Unions*](#)⁸; and,

Whereas, these summer actions and lack of transparency on the part of the HSU Administration coupled with the potential overreach in the definition of "oversight" the University has on

³ [CA Corporations Code](#)

⁴ <https://pmc.humboldt.edu/portal/leadership-change-university-center>

⁵ [U.C. Board of Directors Meeting-Dining – Informational Item A status update regarding the outsourcing of Dining Services to Aladdin Food Management Services.Given By HSU VP EM](#)

⁶ [Tom Jackson, Jr., President-Memorandum July 13, 2020](#)

⁷ [Tom Jackson, Jr., President-Memorandum August 18th, 2020](#)

⁸ [*A Resolution Calling for Democratized and Student Run CSU Student Unions*](#)

auxiliary organizations like the University Center has resulted in the diminishment of student input in the established shared governance structure; and,

Whereas, the rightful governing body, the U.C. Board of Directors which is charged with providing direction and approval on the Student Union's budgeting, facilities management, programs, services, policies, and long-range planning, did not have the proper or formal notice, nor was any opportunity provided to the Board to exercise its decision making power to the fullest of its charge; and,

Whereas, the Associated Students Board of Directors values the cooperative working relations with the HSU Administration, but understand and place the practice of shared governance as a guiding tool when working with campus entities; and,

Whereas, these practices and processes taken by the HSU Administrators have not set up students and student leaders to succeed in any capacity, rather, have jeopardized the current state of the U.C. and therefore the Student Union and indirectly called on the Student Government to now respond in kind; and,

Now, Therefore, as President of the Associated Students, being empowered by the *A.S. Governing Codes Section 15.02* stating "A proclamation shall be a decree by the President of the Associated Students officially commending and/or recognizing the action(s) of an individual, group or club, or announcing special events of concern to Humboldt State University students."⁹ I decree, that the Associated Students at Humboldt State University formally and unequivocally condemn the actions taken by the HSU Administrators, and HSU President; furthermore, be it,

Decreed, that the Associated Students calls on the University to immediately take steps to cooperatively develop with the University Center Board of Directors, a course of action that recognizes the legal authority and responsibility of the University Center Board of Directors, as well as the regulatory responsibility of the President and CFO; furthermore, be it,

Decreed, that the Associated Students at Humboldt State University announce the concerning events surrounding the University Center Programs, and Board of Directors to the Humboldt State University Students and call for a transparent and legally informed process on all matters and/or accusations.

⁹ [A.S. Government Code](#)