



RESOLUTION No. 2020-21-04

AUTHORED BY: Malluli Cuéllar, Legislative Vice President
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ADOPTED: July 13, 2020

SUBJECT: In Support of the student voices that initiated the Change.org petition titled, “Expel 2 Racist Students”

WHEREAS, the Associated Students (A.S.) Board of Directors of Humboldt State University (HSU) is the single recognized voice for over 6,500 students; and,

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Associated Students of Humboldt State University serves to "assist in the protection of rights and interests of the individual student and the student body," and to "stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the University community"; and,

WHEREAS, a racist video and accompanying correspondence depicting enrolled Humboldt State University students exhibiting anti-black sentiments surfaced online through social media; and,

WHEREAS, a video condemning the actions of the Humboldt State University students became widespread with 23,000 likes as of June 23, 2020 on the popular video-sharing social media platform, Tik Tok; and,

WHEREAS, the Humboldt State University campus community received an email on June 3, 2020 at 11:05 am that read, “The Dean of Students office has been made aware of posts on social media showing HSU students making racist taunts and mocking the Black community. Basic decency and campus protocols demand a swift investigation, which is already underway. As administration takes these behaviors seriously, an immediate and thorough student-conduct review will be conducted accordingly, while adhering to FERPA student-privacy laws. The posts surface at a time of deep pain for the Black community. Such behavior, and the white supremacist culture that provides cover for it, does not reflect HSU values and we condemn it. We must all uphold and reinforce our values of social responsibility and respect by enforcing accountability efforts during times like these.”; and,

WHEREAS, the Humboldt State University campus community received an email on June 3, 2020 at 8:09 pm that read, “Two Humboldt State University students have been suspended from their respective athletic and fraternal campus organizations pending a current student-conduct investigation regarding racist posts that were recently discovered on social media. As we indicated earlier today, the HSU administration takes these behaviors seriously and we have immediately begun a student-conduct review, but must continue to adhere to FERPA student-privacy laws. It is important that our campus community

is aware we will hold our students accountable pending results of the investigation and within the scope of the code of student conduct. Please know, due to privacy rules, the final outcomes of the investigation and the names of the students involved cannot be released.”; and,

WHEREAS, Micaela Harris, a student enrolled at Humboldt State University, created a call to action in the form of a petition on Change.org¹, an online petition website, that calls upon Humboldt State University to take action beyond the two Humboldt State University students’ suspension from campus organizations; and,

WHEREAS, the petition titled, “Expel 2 Racist Students”, has been signed by 21,304 individuals as July 11, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Humboldt State University President Tom Jackson, Jr., stated at his investiture², “We will also do our part to help us become a model global community – one that sees beyond itself; one that improves safety of its students and community...”; and,

WHEREAS, the published Humboldt State University Values Statement³ establishes, “We [Humboldt State University] believe in the dignity of all individuals, in fair and equitable treatment, and in equal opportunity.”; and,

WHEREAS, the preface of the Associated Students Constitution⁴ outlines that student leaders as advocates shall, “be vocal on issues that protect and increase student rights; create opportunities to increase the student perspective in the University decision making process; actively seek institutional changes that serve to enhance the student environment; and uphold and protect the integrity of the student body association”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students formally supports the student voices that initiated the Change.org petition titled, “Expel 2 Racist Students”; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of Humboldt State University advocates the student-conduct investigation to follow due process and seek a just resolution; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to, but not limited to the office of Humboldt State University President, Tom Jackson, Jr.; the office of Interim Dean of Students, Eboni Turnbow; Vice President of Enrollment Management, Jason L. Meriwether; the Interim Executive Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Edelmira Reynoso; the Interim Associate Vice President of Student Success, Stephen St. Onge; The Lumberjack, as well as El Leñador

¹ https://www.change.org/p/humboldt-state-university-expel-2-racist-students?recruiter=1108633019&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=psf_combo_share_message&recruited_by_id=2e5c6640-a6aa-11ea-b5b6-f1d5b59ad146

²

<https://president.humboldt.edu/node/207>

³

<https://president.humboldt.edu/vision>

⁴

<https://associatedstudents.humboldt.edu/constitution-17-18>