

RESOLUTION No. 2020-21-06

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REFERRED TO: A.S. Board of Directors

ADOPTED: August 7, 2020

SUBJECT: A Resolution to Call for the Restructuring of the University Police Department

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 students and the student body,” and to “stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the university community”; and,

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color across the nation feel unrest and face brutality at the hands of police;¹ and,

WHEREAS, the mission statement of the HSU University Police Department (UPD) is to “ensure that our campus remains a safe place to learn, live, and work.”

WHEREAS, close to 1,000 people have been shot and killed every year since 2015 by police officers;² and,

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, particularly Black people, are disproportionately shot and killed and are 1.2x to 2.5x more likely to be killed by police officers than people identifying as white;³ and,

WHEREAS, in the Fall of 2019, Persons of Color represented 55.4% of Humboldt States student demographics;⁴ and,

¹ NPR Code Switch, “A Decade of Watching Black People Die,” NPR.org, May 21, 2020, <https://www.npr.org/2020/05/29/865261916/a-decade-of-watching-black-people-die>.

² Frank Edwards, Hedwig Lee, and Michael Esposito, “Risk of Being Killed by Police Use of Force in the United States by Age, Race–Ethnicity, and Sex,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116, no. 34 (August 5, 2019): 16793–98, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1821204116>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Office of Institutional Effectiveness, “Fast Facts F19 | Office of Institutional Effectiveness,” ie.humboldt.edu, 2019, https://ie.humboldt.edu/fast_facts.

WHEREAS, Humboldt State’s students identifying as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color are at an increased risk of harm during occurrences involving the presence of police;⁵ and,

WHEREAS, much of the harm done to students identifying as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color by police takes place during welfare checks, or when non-violent offenses occur that demonstrate no need for an armed officer to be present; and,

WHEREAS, Humboldt State’s 2019 Annual Security Report shows the majority of offenses from 2016-2019 were alcohol and drug related;⁶ compared to other similar sized campuses which report higher violent offenses or lower drug and alcohol related offenses;⁷ and,

WHEREAS, the UPD’s budget for 2019-20 was \$2.9 million dollars which demonstrates a steady increase from 2015-16 when it was \$2.5 million dollars;⁸ and,

WHEREAS, the mission of Humboldt State’s Risk Management and Safety department is to “aid in the identification and evaluation of risk, to facilitate the selection and application of the best risk management techniques to mitigate risks, and to monitor the results”;⁹ and,

WHEREAS, Humboldt State’s Risk Management and Safety department in 2015-16 had a budget of \$506.7k which was decreased in 2016-17 to \$443.5k and has only slightly increased since then to \$498.4k during 2019-20.

WHEREAS, Humboldt State has failed to meet the basic standards of harm reduction on campus, of which the bare minimum is to install sharps collection containers in all single-stall bathrooms on campus as other CSU campuses, such as Sacramento State, have done; and,

WHEREAS, programs that center harm reduction and education provide more support to those who struggle with drug and alcohol use than law enforcement with a criminalization perspective is capable of.¹⁰

⁵ Frank Edwards, Hedwig Lee, and Michael Esposito, “Risk of Being Killed by Police Use of Force in the United States by Age, Race–Ethnicity, and Sex.”

⁶ Humboldt State University Police Department, “2019 Annual Security Report” (Arcata, California: Humboldt State University, 2019).

⁷ Sonoma State University, “2018 Annual Security Report” (Rohnert Park, CA: Sonoma State University, 2018).

⁸ Humboldt State University, “Questica OpenBook: Humboldt State University Interactive Budget Dashboard,” hsu.openbook.questica.com (Humboldt State University), accessed July 14, 2020.

⁹ Humboldt State University Risk Management, “Risk Management Policy,” accessed July 14, 2020.

¹⁰ Open Society Foundation, “Police & Harm Reduction,” July 2018.

WHEREAS, Program 1033, legally requires the Department of Defense to make some items of equipment available to local law enforcement, firefighting, homeland security, and emergency management agencies.¹¹

WHEREAS, in a 2019 interview with Lost Coast Outpost, President Jackson stated with regards to enrollment and the HSU budget,

“What [the budget deficit] means is we refocus and realign our resources towards those things that are actually growing, or we want to grow. So in a way, it’s a very good strategic time as an institution to reflect upon itself and ask, ‘Where do we really want to put our resources so that we can be innovative, and grow and be more marketable to students that happened to be out there and wanting to come to this campus?’ It’s a good conversation to have.”¹²

RESOLVED, in accordance with the HSU University Police Department (UPD) mission statement Associated Students calls for the formation of a task group charged with investigating areas of restructure and change to practices and policies within the University Police Department that adequately address concerns for the safety and the well-being of Humboldt State students; The task force shall investigate practices and policies such as but not limited to: disarmament of campus police, rejection of lethal equipment funneled through program 1033, an establishment of social-based services founded on harm reduction for emergency calls made to UPD that do not require an officer present, and community engagement between UPD and the campus community, to further such mission, further be it,

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students, University Senate Student representatives introduce this resolution to the University Senate and urge for the adoption of this resolution in the University Senate to begin deliberations about task force creation between Campus Administration and Associated Students, further be it,

RESOLVED, within 60 days of resolution adoption by the University Senate, Associated Students will create a task force in coordination with campus administrators charged with the investigation of safe and effective policies and practices as outlined herein of the University Police Department, further be it,

¹¹ “[USC02] 10 USC 2576: Surplus Military Equipment: Sale to State and Local Law Enforcement, Firefighting, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management Agencies,” uscode.house.gov, accessed July 14, 2020.

¹² Freddy Brewster, “In a Wide-Ranging Interview with the Outpost, New HSU President Tom Jackson Jr., PhD Talks about Challenges for the University, His Background and Why the Loss of KHSU Doesn’t Matter All That Much,” Lost Coast Outpost, September 14, 2019..

RESOLVED, that the task force shall create a deliberate charge that outlines the steps to be taken, a part of the charge shall include the facilitation of public forums to capture the campus community's comments and concerns, further be it,

RESOLVED, membership of such a task force shall be composed of at least two appointed students of the association, a member of Project Rebound, a member of the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and a representative from the University Police Department or the University Police Chief to bridge cohesion between faculty/administrators/staff and the student body, further be it,

RESOLVED, that the task force shall complete its report no later than April 2021, further be it,

RESOLVED, following the completion of the task force's report, findings and recommendations shall be submitted to Associated Students for resolution adoption, further be it,

RESOLVED, the Associated Students Executive Committee will meet no later than 30 days after receiving the report to review the contents of the task force's report and draft a resolution in response to the report's findings, further be it,

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students Board of Directors shall create a resolution that aims to institutionalize safe and effective policies and practices that respond to national calls for socially just reform within University Police Departments throughout the California State University system, to pass through CSSA by collaborating with other CSU campuses in its development, further be it,

RESOLVED, any additional goals and objectives that are developed through collaboration with other CSU campuses may also be included in the final resolution for CSSA, further be it,

RESOLVED, Copies of this resolution to be sent to Humboldt State University President, Tom Jackson Jr.; Vice President for Administration & Finance, Sherie Gordon; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Jason Meriwether; Dean of Students, Eboni Turnbow; President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council Chair, Dr. Edelmira Reynoso; The Lumberjack, El Lenador, the University Police Department Chief, and all Coordinators of the Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence (AACAE, El Centro, ITEPP).

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