

1 Presented to the Senate floor on April 11, 2013.



ASUCD SENATE RESOLUTION #21

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7 Authored by: GARG
8 Co-authored by: Brown, Diaz-Ordaz, Gutierrez, Reyna
9 Introduced by: Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Commission

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11 Referred to: External Affairs Commission

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13 Recommendation: External Affairs Commission

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15 An ASUCD Senate Resolution Condemning Islamophobic Hate Speech at the University of California

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17 WHEREAS, the University of California has identified the issue of campus climate as a priority for
18 administration, staff, and students across the UC system; and,

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20 WHEREAS, the UC prides itself on welcoming students from any race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or sexual
21 orientation, yet pockets of racism and hate still exist on this campus which makes the UC an
22 unwelcoming experience for certain communities; and,

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24 WHEREAS, Islamophobia is defined as the irrational fear of Islam, Muslims, or anything related to the
25 Islamic or Arab cultures and traditions; and,

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27 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, Islamophobia has become the latest "hazing" technique across the
28 United States and has created a chilling effect for Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians in their
29 communities, work-environments, and campuses; and,

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31 WHEREAS, according to a Gallup Study, 60% of of Muslim Americans say that Muslims face prejudice
32 from Americans [1]; and,

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34 WHEREAS, 48% of Muslim Americans say that they have personally faced racial or religious
35 discrimination, which is on par with Hispanic Americans (48%), and African Americans (45%), while 54%
36 of Arab Americans say they have experienced this type of discrimination[2]; and,

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38 WHEREAS, since 2006, Muslim students have been targeted for surveillance by the FBI in Orange County,
39 who said that they are paying particular attention to Muslim students at UC Irvine and UCLA; and,

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41 WHEREAS, this surveillance is occurring on the East Coast as well, with the New York Police Department
42 surveillance of Muslim students at Yale, Columbia, Syracuse, Rutgers, New York University, and Brooklyn

43 College [3]; and,
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45 WHEREAS, these racist and selective surveillance procedures are justified by figures in mainstream
46 media, such as David Horowitz, who defines the core mission of the MSA to "advance the Islamic Jihad
47 against the Jews and Christians of the Middle East, and ultimately against the United States"; and,
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49 WHEREAS, in 2008 and 2010, the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) found that, among
50 religious groups, Muslim students are least likely to feel respected on campus; and,

52 WHEREAS, attempts to mischaracterize and chill Palestinian activism have occurred on UC Berkeley's
53 campus, with a lawsuit filed in July 2011 (later dismissed in court) against the UC Regents and President
54 Mark Yudof containing extremely Islamophobic and anti-Arab rhetoric referring to Students for Justice in
55 Palestine and the Muslims Students Association as "anti-Semitic" and "pro-terrorist"; and,
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57 WHEREAS, the plaintiffs in the lawsuit allege that "the more publicly active SJP may be understood as the
58 more militant arm of the outwardly benevolent MSA" and that SJP, MSA, and MSU all "fund terrorism" and
59 are tied to terrorist groups; and,
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61 WHEREAS, more recently, UC Santa Cruz lecturer Tammi Rossman-Benjamin has been responsible for
62 inciting racist and Islamophobic rhetoric by claimings that students in the MSA and SJP are "...generally
63 motivated by very strong religious and political convictions, they have a fire in their belly, they come to
64 the university, many of them are foreign students who come from countries and cultures where anti-
65 Semitism is how they think about the world ... These are not your ordinary student groups like College
66 Republicans or Young Democrats. These are students who come with a serious agenda, who have ties to
67 terrorist organizations."; and,
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69 WHEREAS, attempts to mischaracterize and chill Palestinian activism have occurred on our own campus,

71 WHEREAS, more recently, the Ayn Rand Society at UC Davis hosted an event titled "Islamists Rising in the
72 Middle East: Where Next for America" where three speakers (Daniel Pipes, Elan Journo, and Larry
73 Greenfield) with known histories of Islamophobic and racist hate speech were invited to speak; and,
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75 WHEREAS, the university's inaction serves as evidence of complacency toward hate speech dehumanizing
76 and criminalizing Muslims and Muslim Americans; and,
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78 WHEREAS, the event is in clear violation of the UC Davis Policy and Procedure Manual Chapter 280
79 (Section 5.II.B) where discrimination is defined as "an illegal or prohibited adverse educational action or
80 harassment based on race, color, national origin, religion..."; and,
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82 WHEREAS, claims such as those cited above create an unsafe and divisive environment for Middle
83 Eastern, Muslim, South Asian students, and others who may be perceived as being of similar descent,
84 and these claims are completely opposite to the values of a premier university system; and,
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86 WHEREAS, the President of the University of California, Mark Yudof, is responsible for advocating for all
87 students regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation; and,

89 WHEREAS, the UC Davis Principles of Community states that "We promote open expression of our
90 individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, and respect"; and,
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92 WHEREAS, the Muslim & Arab Student Campus Climate at the University of California Fact-Finding Team's
93 recommendations issued by the UC President's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture, and
94 Inclusion include...

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96 WHEREAS, the University of California is no place for hateful and inflammatory rhetoric and holds its
97 students, faculty, staff, and affiliates to higher standards that promote a positive and inclusive campus
98 climate; therefore,

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100 THEREFOR LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the ASUCD condemn the remarks of lecturer Tammi Rossman-
101 Benjamin and those described in the above-mentioned lawsuit as hateful and inflammatory; and,
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103 THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUCD urge President Mark Yudof to condemn
104 these inflammatory, hateful, and racist assumptions by UCSC lecturer Tammi Rossman-Benjamin against
105 Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian, and Palestinian activists; and,

107 THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUCD condemn the above-mentioned Ayn Rand
108 Society event; and,

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110 THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUCD Vice President write a letter to UCOP
111 condemning the racist and bigoted language by Tammi Rossman-Benjamin and President Yudof's failure
112 to address the matter, as well as passing a similar bill with UCSA; and,

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114 THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ASUCD urge other campuses to pass similar bills in
115 their respective student governments.

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117 Finance: No

Appropriation: None

Vote: Majority

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