



Associated Students of San Francisco State University Resolution in Support of Students Identifying as Transgender and Other Gender and Sexual Identities

WHEREAS, Associated Students at San Francisco State University (AS), a nonprofit auxiliary student government organization, is the recognized voice of the 29,607 students enrolled at San Francisco State University (SFSU);

WHEREAS, a person's gender or sexual identity¹ is an expression of one's own feelings about who they are and how they wish to be identified by others. Often referred to as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, these identities are much more diverse than the acronym LGBT and represent a broad spectrum of gender and sexual diversity;

WHEREAS, each person has a human right to their identity². It is not a physical descriptor and can change as a person's understanding of themselves changes. Therefore, placing an identity on someone that they have not themselves expressed is an unacceptable act of oppression³;

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area has a history of being a haven of acceptance for those who don't fit society's norms. This long history has and continues to draw people of diverse identities seeking acceptance that they don't get in the communities they once called home;

WHEREAS, the mission of SFSU⁴ says that it honors roots, stimulates intellectual and personal development, promotes equity, and inspires the courage to lead, create and innovate, drawing students looking to escape high schools where they faced oppression and bullying;

WHEREAS, SFSU has a curriculum that helps students to understand the importance of social justice⁵ and helping to create a society that works for everyone, yet the campus administration often lacks the same awareness;

WHEREAS, AS has supported students from diverse gender and sexual identities with programs like the Education and Referral Organization on Sexuality (EROS), the Women's Resource Center (WRC) and the Queer Trans Resource Center (QTRC);

WHEREAS, recent events on campus regarding a Clery Timely Warning which misidentified a student as Transgender and the response to these issues by campus administration have created a hostile campus environment⁶ for Trans students; and

WHEREAS, students have voiced their feelings⁷ that these events have criminalized Trans bodies and misidentified students sexual or gender identity based on the description of others.

¹ Understanding Gender. Gender Spectrum. <https://www.genderspectrum.org/quick-links/understanding-gender/>

² Right to Identity. International Human Rights Law Clinic. University of California, Berkeley School of Law. November 2007

³ Oppression, Social Divisions and Identity. L. Dominelli, J Camping. Anti-Oppressive Social Work Theory and Practice. Palgrave, London. 2002. P.37-58.

⁴ San Francisco State University Mission Statement. Academic Senate Policy #S92-176. February 10, 2015.

⁵ Resolution on Reaffirmation of SFSU's Commitment to Social Justice. Academic Senate Resolution RF05-248. 2005

⁶ Transphobic Crime Bulletin Leads to Demands for Apology, Action. L. Morotti. Golden Gate Express, December 12, 2018.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS affirms its unwavering support for Trans students and all students in their expressed gender or sexual identity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AS calls upon our Compliance Coordinator to complete a review of all policies to conform with the practice that no one should be identified by anything other than their own expressed identity including personally chosen pronouns and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AS calls upon our Assistant Executive Director of Programs to create an action plan within 1 year to evaluate enhancing our programs and services to ensure that adequate support is given to students seeking a safe haven in their college education because of the expression of their identity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AS calls upon our Assistant Executive Director of Facilities and Operations to complete a feasibility study by the end of the fiscal year to make all restrooms gender neutral in Cesar Chavez Student Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AS calls upon President Dr. Leslie Wong to declare SFSU “A Queerencia Campus,” making SFSU the first campus in a student movement to create university cultures that help students thrive regardless of their identity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AS calls upon President Dr. Leslie Wong to initiate a review of all campus policies to give all student, faculty and staff the right to identify themselves however they choose and that policies prohibit identifying any student’s gender or sexual identity by anything other than what that student has expressed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Associated Students calls upon the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dr. Luoluo Hong to include all complaints of discrimination based upon a real or perceived gender or sexual identity using the same title IX review process as used for sex.

⁷ Hong Issues Apology, Correction for Transphobic Crime Bulletin. G. Scott. Golden Gate Express, December 18, 2018.