A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TAKING ACTION AGAINST WHITE SUPREMACY ON CAMPUS

Resolution Number: 87
Authored By: Senator Hassen, Senator Harvey, Senator Ampié, and Senator Supple
Sponsored By: The Committee on Public Affairs

Whereas, white supremacist propaganda affiliated with the American Identity Movement, formerly known as Identity Evropa, was found throughout the University of Nevada campus in early September 2019;¹

Whereas, prior to the discovery of said propaganda, 16 hate crimes and bias incidents were reported at the University of Nevada within a span of twelve months;²

Whereas, the American Identity Movement operates as a recognized white supremacist organization and hate group, by the Anti-Defamation League and Southern Poverty Law Center, respectively;³

Whereas, “white supremacy is a term used to characterize various belief systems central to which are one or more of the following key tenets: 1) whites should have dominance over people of other backgrounds, especially where they may co-exist; 2) whites should live by themselves in a whites-only society; 3) white people have their own “culture” that is superior to other cultures; 4) white people are genetically superior to other people;”⁴

Whereas, “the Southern Poverty Law Center defines a hate group as an organization that – based on its official statements or principles, the statements of its leaders, or its activities – has beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics;”

Whereas, the American Identity Movement acted as a co-organizer of the 2017 “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, that left three dead and thirty-three more injured;

Whereas, after a series of white nationalist-related mass shootings, the United States Department of Homeland Security has added white supremacy as a priority threat under its revised counterterrorism strategy;

Whereas, the acting Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security stated the “continuing menace of racially-based violent extremism, particularly white supremacist extremism, is an abhorrent affront to our nation, the struggle, and unity of its diverse population;”

Whereas, the 2019 spring semester recorded the most incidents of white supremacist propaganda on college campuses throughout the United States than any other previous semester on record, with the American Identity Movement responsible for a majority of said incidents;

Whereas, focused white supremacist propaganda campaigns on university campuses serve as not only a means to establish an increased presence and propagate an ideology rooted in exclusionary principles, but also functions as a primary method of recruitment;

Whereas, as of 2018, of the University’s 21,463 students, only 696 identified as Black, non-Hispanic, making up 3.2% of the overall student population, significantly lower than the most recent statistics from the

---

Department of Education indicating that black, non-Hispanic students consist of approximately 14% of all students enrolled in institutions of higher education;\(^{10}\)\(^{11}\)

*Whereas,* students of the University who identify as either Black, Hispanic, or Native American, according to 2017 statistics, graduate at a rate of up to 14 percentage points less than their white counterparts;\(^{12}\)

*Whereas,* though research shows that increased diversity on its own is not enough to become an inclusive institution, it does serve as a prerequisite to “diminishing the effects of discrimination on students’ sense of belonging and retention;”\(^{13}\)

*Whereas,* the University’s 2019 Campus Climate Survey indicated that regardless of the identity status of respondents, including but not limited to racial, sexual, or gender identity, underrepresented students as a whole feel significantly less comfortable on our campus than their privileged counterparts;\(^{14}\)

*Whereas,* the Campus Climate Survey further displayed that 34% of Black respondents experienced exclusionary, intimidating, offensive, and/or hostile conduct at the University, with an overrepresented amount of other underrepresented groups reporting similar experiences, each illustrating major themes of “bullying and hostile conduct” in their description of such experiences;\(^{14}\)

*Whereas,* the Campus Climate Survey Executive Summary acknowledges that, “several empirical studies reinforce the importance of the perception of nondiscriminatory environments for positive learning and developmental outcomes;”\(^{14}\)

---

\(^{10}\) Institutional Analysis, Student Headcount Fall 2018 vs Fall 2019: [https://www.unr.edu/Documents/administration-finance/ia/enrl_comparison/F18%20to%20F19%20Census%20Comparison.pdf](https://www.unr.edu/Documents/administration-finance/ia/enrl_comparison/F18%20to%20F19%20Census%20Comparison.pdf)


Whereas, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, students have “a right to an education free from discrimination,” and the existence of a racially hostile environment deprives them of that right;15

Whereas, under Title VI, it is acknowledged that conduct that is either physical, verbal, graphic, or written, may constitute a racially hostile environment, despite those responsible for said conduct being unaffiliated with the University;15

Whereas, the strategic plan for the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, No Walls: 2025, outlines diversity and inclusion as two principal goals for the future of the university, and, “an important key to unlocking the ideal student experience;”16

Whereas, the University of Nevada’s Strategic Plan (2015-2021), “recognizes and embraces the critical importance of diversity in preparing students for global citizenship and is committed to a culture of excellence, inclusion, and accessibility;”17

Be it resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada stand in solidarity with students impacted by white supremacy, and denounce the American Identity Movement, and any other group that shares its racist, anti-Semitic, and overall bigoted ideology of white supremacy;

Be it further resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada reject white supremacy from what we acknowledge to be acceptable political discourse within our campus community, and refuse to tolerate the intolerance inherent within its existence;

Be it further resolved that, initiatives regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, three matters directly related to the wellbeing of our campus community, be incorporated through legislation into a new set of legislative priorities for the 87th Session of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, alongside the existing

16 No Walls: 2025, A Student Vision for the University of Nevada: https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/nevadaasun/2015/01/No-Walls-2025-AStudentVisOnForTheUniversityOfNevadaReno.pdf
priorities of safety, transportation, sexual assault prevention, affordable housing, sustainability, and affordable education;

*Be it further resolved that*, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada urge the University’s administration to invest in the climate of the campus as experienced by underrepresented minorities, by investing more of its resources, financial, physical, or otherwise, in increasing faculty diversity, programming to support the enrollment, retention, and commencement of minority students, among other initiatives to further the interests of not only diversity, but also equity and inclusion;

*Be it further resolved that*, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada urge the University’s administration to assist in the coordination of demonstrations consistent with its values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and therefore against exclusion, discrimination, and bigotry, on a consistent basis;

*Be it further resolved that*, this resolution, upon its adoption, will not serve as the end of the discussion for a truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus community, but rather upon its adoption, this resolution serves as just one more step towards achieving the ideal student experience for all students;

*Be it further resolved that*, a copy of this resolution be sent to President Marc Johnson, Vice President of Student Services Shannon Ellis, Dean of Students Kimberly Thomas, Associate Vice President of Student Life Romando Nash, Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs Jill Heaton, University Diversity and Inclusion Officer Eloisa Gordon-Mora, Chair of the University’s Faculty Senate Brian Frost, and Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents.

Adopted in Senate on October 23rd, 2019

Attest:

______________________________________________________________
Frida Urena, Secretary of the Senate

______________________________________________________________
Savannah Hughes, Speaker of the Senate