Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 87th Session
Agenda for Wednesday, October 9th, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Joe Crowley Student Union President's Conference Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER*

2. ROLL CALL*

3. PUBLIC COMMENT*

Items heard under public comment may be for items either on or off the agenda. Action may not be taken on items raised under public comment. The Chair may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak

4. MINUTES

There are no minutes to be heard at this time.

5. REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The Director of Legislative Affairs will provide a report regarding upcoming projects, legislation, etc.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business to be discussed at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. **S. Res. 86- A Resolution to Condemn Racial Hair Discrimination**
   The Committee will discuss and consider favorable recommending the legislation.

b. **Veterans Luncheon Updates**
   The committee will discuss plans for the annual Veterans.

c. **Senator Updates**
   Senators will give updates on any legislation or ideas.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT*

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Posted at the ASUN Offices in the Joe Crowley Student Union, Frandsen Humanities Building, the Pennington Student Achievement Center, Mathewson- IGT Knowledge Center, and online at www.nevadaasun.com.

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Senator Westerman at senatorwesterman@asun.unr.edu.

9. ADJOURNMENT

10. NOTES

Unless otherwise marked by an asterisk, all items are action items upon which the Senate may take action. ASUN supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Speaker of the ASUN at (775) 784-6589 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

86th SESSION
2018-2019

S. R. 86-
A Resolution to Condemn Racial Hair Discrimination

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR ROGERS, SENATOR AMPIE, AND SENATOR VELTRE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Resolution to condemn Racial Hair Discrimination

Whereas, (a) "Race or ethnicity" includes ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, and ethnic background. (b) "Race" is inclusive of traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. (c) "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, such hairstyles as braids, locs, and twists.[1]

Whereas, California CROWN Act SB 188 CROWN Act (Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of "traits historically associated with one's race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles." Was signed into law making California the first state to expressly include natural hairstyles in its anti-discrimination law. [2]

[1] California Senate Bill 188
[2] California Senate Bill 188 (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/)

Whereas, the CROWN Coalition, a national alliance comprised of the National Urban League, Western Center on Law & Poverty, Color of Change, and Dove lobbied for this bill

Whereas, the CROWN Coalition is also being supported by organizations such as: ACLU California, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Anti-Defamation League, Black American Political Association of California, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, Black Women Organized for Political Action, California Black Chamber of Commerce, California Civil Liberties Advocacy, California Employment Lawyers Association, California School Board Association, California Teachers Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Equal Rights Advocates, Greenlining Institute, National Association of Social Workers – California Chapter, National Council of Negro Women, National Women's Law Center, The Links, Incorporated, The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., and Women's Foundation of California.[3]

Whereas, New York was the second state to pass this type of law on July 12, 2019

Whereas, The New York bill would update the definition of race used in existing law to be "inclusive of traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles." [4]

Whereas, "Prohibits race discrimination based on natural hair or hairstyles; defines "race" for certain specific purposes to include, but not be limited to, ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, and ethnic background, and to include traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles; and defines "protective hairstyles" to include, but not be limited to, such hairstyles as braids, locs, and twists."

Whereas, Senate Bill 3945, A bill introduced in the New Jersey Legislature would ban discrimination based on hair in the workplace, housing, and public schools. [5]

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[3] https://www.prnewswire.com

[4] Senate Bill S6209A (https://www.nysenate.gov)

[5] https://legiscan.com/NJ/bill/S3945/2018

Whereas, House Bill 156 in Tennessee which Creates a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act," which defines race and protective hairstyle for purposes of the Tennessee Human Rights Act[6]

Whereas, HB 4811 in Michigan, which is a bill to amend 1976 PA 453, entitled "Elliott-Larsen civil rights act"[7]

Whereas, Wisconsin Assembly Bill 440 which makes changes to various areas of the law to prohibit discrimination based on a person's hairstyle, including a "protective hairstyle," further defined in the bill to include braids, locs, and twists. [8]

Whereas, this bill also defines "race" to include traits historically associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles.[9]

Whereas, Illinois House Bill 3884 amends the Illinois Human Rights Act providing that "race", as used in the Employment and Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Education Articles, includes traits historically associated with races, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locs, and twists. [10]

Whereas, according to the fall to fall census date comparison, 689 students identify as Black, Non-Hispanic ethnicity[11]

Whereas, according to that same study, 1,455 students identify as Multiethnic[12]

Be it resolved, ASUN supports the Nevada System of Higher Education creating a policy against discriminating on Hair

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[6] http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/Billinfo/default.aspx?BillNumber=HB1546&ga=111
[7] http://www.legislature.mi.gov
[8] http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov
[9] http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov
[10] https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/1138516
[11] University of Nevada, Reno HEADCOUNT, Fall to Fall Census Date Comparison
[12] University of Nevada, Reno HEADCOUNT, Fall to Fall Census Date Comparison

Be it further resolved, ASUN urges and supports the creation of this anti-discrimination policy to be adopted by the Washoe County School District, Congress, the Reno City Council, and Nevada Legislature.

Be it further resolved, this resolution be sent to President Marc Johnson, Vice President of Student Services Dr. Shannon Ellis, Reno Mayor Hilary Schieve, NSHE Board of Regents Chairman Jason Geddes, Nevada Legislative Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro.