

Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 87th Session
Agenda for Wednesday, October 16th, 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. 87- A Resolution in Support of Taking Action Against White Supremacy on Campus**

The Committee will discuss and consider favorable recommending the legislation.

8. **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.

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.



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.

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

87th SESSION
2019-2020

S. Res. 87-

**A Resolution in Support of Taking Action
Against White Supremacy on Campus**

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

OCTOBER 16, 2019

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR HASSEN, SENATOR HARVEY, SENATOR AMPIE,
AND SENATOR SUPPLE TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**A Resolution in Support of Taking Action
Against White Supremacy on Campus**

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

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

¹ Associated Press. "White Nationalist Flyers Posted on UNR, TMCC Campuses." Reno Gazette Journal. Reno Gazette Journal, September 12, 2019. <https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2019/09/12/white-nationalist-flyers-posted-unr-tmcc-campuses/2301291001/>.

² McAndrew, Siobhan. "See the List: The 16 Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents Reported at UNR since Sept. 2018." Reno Gazette Journal. Reno Gazette Journal, September 4, 2019. <https://www.rgj.com/story/news/education/2019/09/04/swastika-university-nevada-reno-dormitory-wolf-pack-tower-circus-circus/2201025001/>.

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

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

8 *Whereas*, “The Southern Poverty Law Center defines a hate group as an organization that – based on its
9 official statements or principles, the statements of its leaders, or its activities – has beliefs or practices that
10 attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics;”⁵

11 *Whereas*, the American Identity Movement acted as a co-organizer of the 2017 “Unite the Right” rally in
12 Charlottesville, Virginia, that left three dead and thirty-three more injured;⁶

13 *Whereas*, after a series of white nationalist-related mass shootings, the United States Department of
14 Homeland Security has added white supremacy as a priority threat under its revised counterterrorism
15 strategy;⁷

16 *Whereas*, the acting Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security stated the “continuing menace
17 of racially-based violent extremism, particularly white supremacist extremism, is an abhorrent affront to our
18 nation, the struggle, and unity of its diverse population;”⁸

³ Johnson, Taylor. “White Supremacy Persists at UNR, Two Years after Charlottesville.” The Nevada Sagebrush, September 17, 2019. <http://nevadasagebrush.com/blog/2019/09/17/white-supremacy-persists-at-unr-two-years-after-charlottesville/>.

⁴ “Defining Extremism: A Glossary of White Supremacist Terms, Movements and Philosophies.” Anti-Defamation League, 2019. <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/glossary-terms/defining-extremism-white-supremacy>

⁵ “Frequently asked questions about hate groups.” Southern Poverty Law Center, October 4, 2017.

<https://www.splcenter.org/20171004/frequently-asked-questions-about-hate-groups#hate%20group>

⁶ Heim, Joe. “How a Rally of White Nationalists and Supremacists at the University of Virginia Turned into a ‘Tragic, Tragic Weekend.’” The Washington Post. WP Company, August 14, 2017.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/local/charlottesville-timeline/>.

⁷ Williams, Pete. “Department of Homeland Security Strategy Adds White Supremacy to List of Threats.” NBCNews.com. NBCUniversal News Group, September 20, 2019. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/department-homeland-security-strategy-adds-white-supremacy-list-threats-n1057136>.

⁸ Id.

1 *Whereas*, the 2019 spring semester recorded the most incidents of white supremacist propaganda on
 2 college campuses throughout the United States than any other previous semester on record, with the
 3 American Identity Movement responsible for a majority of said incidents;⁹

4 *Whereas*, focused white supremacist propaganda campaigns on university campuses serve as not only a
 5 means to establish an increased presence and propagate an ideology rooted in exclusionary principles, but also
 6 functions as a primary method of recruitment;¹⁰

7 *Whereas*, as of 2018, of the University's 21,463 students, only 696 identified as Black, non-Hispanic,
 8 making up 3.2% of the overall student population, significantly lower than the most recent statistics from the
 9 Department of Education indicating that black, non-Hispanic students consist of approximately 14% of all
 10 students enrolled in institutions of higher education;^{11 12}

11 *Whereas*, students of the University who identify as either Black, Hispanic, or Native American,
 12 according to 2017 statistics, graduate at a rate of up to 14 percentage points less than their white
 13 counterparts;¹³

14 *Whereas*, though research shows that increased diversity on its own is not enough to become an inclusive
 15 institution, it does serve as a prerequisite to “diminishing the effects of discrimination on students’ sense of
 16 belonging and retention;”¹⁴

⁹ “White Supremacists Continue to Spread Hate on American Campuses.” Anti-Defamation League, June 27, 2019.
<https://www.adl.org/blog/white-supremacists-continue-to-spread-hate-on-american-campuses>.

¹⁰ Press Release - October 3, 2019. “U.S. White Supremacy Groups.” Counter Extremism Project, September 17, 2019.
<https://www.counterextremism.com/content/us-white-supremacy-groups#dd-evropa>.

¹¹ 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

¹² “The NCES Fast Facts Tool Provides Quick Answers to Many Education Questions (National Center for Education Statistics).” National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Home Page, a part of the U.S. Department of Education. Accessed October 5, 2019. <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=98>.

¹³ “Graduation Rates: University of Nevada-Reno.” Univstats. Accessed October 7, 2019.
<https://www.univstats.com/colleges/university-of-nevada-reno/graduation-rate>.

¹⁴ Hurtado, Sylvia, & Alvarado, Adriana. *Discrimination and Bias, Underrepresentation, and Sense of Belonging on Campus*, October 2015. <https://www.heri.ucla.edu/PDFs/Discrimination-and-Bias-Underrepresentation-and-Sense-of-Belonging-on-Campus.pdf>

1 *Whereas*, the University’s 2019 Campus Climate Survey indicated that regardless of the identity status of
2 respondents, including but not limited to racial, sexual, or gender identity, underrepresented students as a
3 whole feel significantly less comfortable on our campus than their privileged counterparts;¹⁵

4 *Whereas*, the Campus Climate Survey further displayed that 34% of Black respondents experienced
5 exclusionary, intimidating, offensive, and/or hostile conduct at the University, with an overrepresented
6 amount of other underrepresented groups reporting similar experiences, each illustrating major themes of
7 “bullying and hostile conduct” in their description of such experiences;¹⁶

8 *Whereas*, the Campus Climate Survey Executive Summary acknowledges that, “several empirical studies
9 reinforce the importance of the perception of nondiscriminatory environments for positive learning and
10 developmental outcomes;”¹⁷

11 *Whereas*, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, students have “a right to an education free from
12 discrimination,” and the existence of a racially hostile environment deprives them of that right;¹⁸

13 *Whereas*, under Title VI, it is acknowledged that conduct that is either physical, verbal, graphic, or
14 written, may constitute a racially hostile environment, despite those responsible for said conduct being
15 unaffiliated with the University;¹⁹

16 *Whereas*, the strategic plan for the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, No Walls: 2025,
17 outlines diversity and inclusion as two principal goals for the future of the university, and, “an important key
18 to unlocking the ideal student experience;”²⁰

¹⁵ Rankin & Associates. (2019). Campus Climate Assessment Project [Executive Summary]:
<https://www.unr.edu/main/pdfs/verified-accessible/divisions-offices/president/truth/Climate-Study-Executive-Summary.pdf>

¹⁶ Id.

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, “Racial Incidents and Harassment Against Students at Educational Institutions; Investigative Guidance.” Norma V. Cantu. *Federal Register* 59, no. 47. (March 10, 1994):
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/race394.html>

¹⁹ Id.

²⁰ 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>

1 *Whereas*, the University of Nevada’s Strategic Plan (2015-2021), “recognizes and embraces the critical
2 importance of diversity in preparing students for global citizenship and is committed to a culture of
3 excellence, inclusion, and accessibility.”²¹

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

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

10 *Be it further resolved that*, initiatives regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, three matters directly related
11 to the wellbeing of our campus community, be incorporated through legislation into a new set of legislative
12 priorities for the 87th Session of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, alongside the existing
13 priorities of safety, transportation, sexual assault prevention, affordable housing, sustainability, and affordable
14 education;

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

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

²¹ University of Nevada, Reno, Strategic Plan – 2015 to 2021: <https://www.unr.edu/Documents/provost/provosts-office/forms/UNR%20Strategic%20Plan%20FINAL%20110314%20to%20BOR.pdf>

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

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