



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

91st Session, 2023-2024

A RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE TRANSPHOBIC REMARKS MADE BY REGENT BOYLAN

Resolution Number: 88

Authored By: Senator Jojan

Sponsored By: 2023-2024 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, on January 14th 2022, at a NSHE Board of Regents Special Meeting, Regent Boylan made remarks regarding the achievement and representation of students on the basis of their identity, specifically advocating for white students;

Whereas, the comments were spoken into the record as follows: “But why are there only Hispanic serving initiatives...why don't we serve all students of all ethnicities because...and I don't mean this harshly to anybody...I'm watching all of the reports and of higher education, it seems like everybody is mentioned but those with that group of students who are, and I'll term them colorless, because we have black students, we have colored students, and I think the white students are invisible, no color, so I'll call them colorless... are we not interested in helping them [white students], are they no initiatives or do we just say screw them we look good about all these other colors and non-colors, and I'm very colored trust me, but all the different colors, they'll be invisible. There's something racist to me... the times are changing I know but this is a group of students that we must cater to also just because they're the white, bad white person toxic white male thing, doesn't mean we stop. They're students, they're kids, they are the leaders of the future so again I don't see even hear anything that says our white students are doing something, oh sorry, non-colored students, invisible students, and they're becoming Invisible. So help me [understand] this...”

Whereas, following these comments, ASUN passed SR 89 A Resolution Condemning the Racist Remarks Made by Regent Patrick Boylan, which condemned these remarks and further called on him to resign;

Whereas, NSHE as a whole and Regent Boylan did not respond to the resolution or take any actions on this matter thereafter;

Whereas, NSHE by failing to respond to the resolution has ignored student voices and the negative impact of such discriminatory statements have the students served by NSHE;

Whereas, on Friday, March 1st 2024, at an NSHE meeting, Regent Boylan said the following: "It doesn't matter what race, sex, anything you are, there's something known as the First Amendment, freedom of speech," Boylan said. "I see it as a man masquerading as a woman. If he has not had his, you-know-what cut off or anything, he's still a man. So I will say a man masquerading as a woman no matter what. That's the way I see it, that's the way I will say it," he added. "So if any of you think, like, fellow regents, and those students, that that will shut me up or keep me from saying things again, no, it won't. I will speak the truth as I see the truth."¹

Whereas, these comments are clearly transphobic and have been condemned by the Nevada Faculty Alliance which has called for Regent Boylan to resign;²

Whereas, Regent Boylan has a history of making discriminatory comments which NSHE has failed to address;

Whereas, NSHE Chancellor Patricia Charlton sent out an email on March 6th 2024 to all students titled: "Message from NSHE Chancellor Patricia Charlton" which said the following: "At NSHE, we are dedicated to creating a system-wide culture where every member of our community feels valued, regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, or any other characteristic. We stand firmly behind the principles of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access, understanding these are not mere words but NSHE's fundamental values. Diversity is essential for the enrichment of our campuses and elevation of the educational experience for every student, faculty member, and staff member. We understand the significance of providing an environment where individuals can express themselves authentically, devoid of fear.";

¹ <https://www.ktnv.com/news/nevada-regent-rejects-calls-to-resign-after-controversial-comments-about-transgender-women>

² <https://www.ktnv.com/news/nevada-regent-rejects-calls-to-resign-after-controversial-comments-about-transgender-women>

Whereas, the email failed to condemn Regent Boylan's comments and failed to address his statements altogether;

Whereas, unequivocally transgender rights are human rights;

Whereas, ASUN is incredibly disappointed by these comments and condemns in the strongest possible terms the remarks made by Regent Boylan;

Whereas, ASUN strongly supports and welcomes transgender students who are an important part of the UNR student body and rejects the vile and hateful comments made by Regent Boylan;

Whereas, transgender individuals are subject to discrimination and are targeted by anti-transgender laws with “20 state legislatures with Republican majorities having banned or restricted gender-affirming care for trans people.”³

Whereas, the NASSP reports that “42.2% of transgender students had been prevented from using their preferred name, 59.2% had been required to use a bathroom or locker room of their legal sex, and 31.6% had been prevented from wearing clothes considered inappropriate based on their legal sex.”⁴

Whereas, “Data indicates that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth”;⁵

Whereas, an Anti-Discrimination Resolution was introduced at the March 2022 Board of Regents meeting by Regent Del Carlo, Vice Chancellor Constance Brooks, and IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Council Co-Chairs Jose Melendrez and Dr. Evi Buell which outlined NSHE’s commitment to diversity and the importance of leadership in NSHE;

Whereas, that resolution stated that “the Board recognizes its resounding responsibility to the NSHE community, the State of Nevada, and its higher education families throughout the nation to denounce any words or actions with discriminatory intent or effect, and such efforts are exemplified by the leadership and representations of its Regents.”;

³ <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/USA-HEALTHCARE/TRANS-BILLS/zgvorreyapd/>

⁴ <https://www.nassp.org/top-issues-in-education/position-statements/transgender-students/>

⁵ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

Whereas, these comments made by Regent Boylan clearly are in contradiction with the resolution adopted by NSHE;

Be it resolved that, ASUN strongly condemns the comments made by Regent Boylan and calls for the immediate resignation of Regent Boylan;

Be it further resolved that, ASUN welcomes transgender individuals and reaffirms the fact that transgender rights are human rights;

Be it further resolved that, ASUN calls for President Sandoval and the UNR Faculty Senate to also condemn these comments and call for Regent Boylan's resignation;

Be it further resolved that, ASUN calls for NSHE to take action on this matter by condemning the remarks by Regent Boylan and take actions to remove Regent Boylan from office if he does not resign;

Be it further resolved that, this resolution be sent to the following:

- Nevada State Governor: Joe Lombardo
- Nevada State Legislature Senate Majority Leader: Nicole J. Cannizzaro
- Nevada State Legislature Assembly Speaker: Steve Yeager
- University President: Brian Sandoval
- Faculty Senate Chair: Peter Reed,
- CSUN President, Joshua Padilla
- NSHE Chancellor: Patricia Charlton
- Board of Regents' Chair: Amy J. Carvalho
- Vice Chair: Downs,
- Regent Boylan
- Regent Brager
- Regent Brooks
- Regent Brown
- Regent Cruz-Crawford,
- Regent Del Carlo

- Regent Goodman
- Regent Sylvantee McMichael
- Regent Perkins
- Regent Tarkanian

Adopted in Senate on March 13, 2024

Attest:

Ally Chavez, Senate Secretary

Fayza Salah, Speaker of the Senate