

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Resolution #01

Resolution in Support of Graduate Women of Color at UC Merced

This Resolution shows ASUCM Senate's support of Graduate Women of Color in light of recent hostile events.

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Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

2016-2017

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GRADUATE WOMEN OF COLOR AT UC MERCED

Background: A former graduate student leader, in their resignation letter, singled out a graduate woman of color in, consecutively inciting a hostile climate that also affected other women of color participating in these spaces.

Purpose: The purpose of this resolution is to express that the Associated Students of UC Merced stand in support and solidarity with Graduate Women of Color in our institution.

1. **WHEREAS:** the University of California, Merced (UCM) is a Hispanic-serving and Minority-serving institution; and,
2. **WHEREAS:** UC Merced's Principles of Community affirms "the inherent dignity and value of every person while cultivating a campus climate rooted in mutual respect and compassion" but lack of formal, institutional response fails to uphold this principle;
3. **WHEREAS:** recent events at the campus have placed the life of one graduate student, Violet Barton, in danger, and the culture of the campus in general has frequently left women of color as vulnerable targets; and,
4. **WHEREAS:** recent events have made graduate women of color feel unsafe, unsupported, and in danger, and the culture of the campus has frequently left women of color as vulnerable targets; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** historically, women of color have repeatedly tried to participate in the UCM Graduate Student Association (GSA), but their actions were repeatedly denounced as "intimidation tactic[s]", "bullying", "aggressive", and "toxic" by student representatives; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** students of color at UCM are particularly isolated and vulnerable in a city that has been historically hostile toward their presence and continues to be today; with neo-Nazism and other hate groups being present, the presence of a "Prison Alley", and evidence of increasing police militarization; and,
7. **WHEREAS:** this climate led to the eventual resignations of two Latina GSA officers, due to direct targeting and hostile work environment

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ASUCM condemns the actions of those who place the lives of our most marginalized and vulnerable community members in danger, particularly women of color; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASUCM formally requests UCM administration remove and formally address the email initially sent by the former graduate student leader in the university server,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASUCM reaffirms the need for the student governments at the undergraduate and graduate level to receive additional trainings related to cultural sensitivity such as Safe Zone, Title IX, and Undocu-Ally Trainings , conflict resolution, and professional communications as demonstrated by recent events; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as future preventative measures, Administration should have further training to support the recruitment and retention of diverse student leaders on campus to support an inclusive climate in GSA; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: supporting women of color in academia at UCM can be aided by including safe spaces on campus for marginalized students, at both the undergraduate and graduate student level; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that ASUCM encourages the UC Merced administration to issue an apology to all graduate students, but especially to the three Latina graduate students who have been subjected to public humiliation without resolution.

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Resolution #01: Resolution in Support of Graduate Women of Color at UC Merced

Date Introduced: _____

Submitted Senate Committee(s):

Date Settled: _____

☐ Budget and Finance

☐ Student Advocacy

Veto Expires: _____

☐ Student Activities

☐ Academic Affairs

☐ Other _____

Comments/Recommendations:

Senate Action:

Approved

Not Approved

Senate Chair Authorization:

Gabriel Hulbert

Date: _____

Gabriel Hulbert, Internal Vice President

President Action:

Approved

Not Approved

President's Signature:

Katelyn Fitzgerald

Date: 9/27/16

Katelyn Fitzgerald, President