



**Resolution To Support Queer and Trans Students and To Deny Guest Speakers Engaging
in Hate Speech**

Author(s):

Anna Janumov (She/Her/Hers), Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)
Committee Chair

Jacob Aragon (He/Him/His), At-Large Senator

Chloe Cohen (She/Her/Hers), At-Large Senator

Sponsoring Senator(s):

Jolie Beegle (She/Her/Hers), College of Arts and Sciences Senator

Takilah Haymond (She/Her/Hers), At-Large Senator

Date: Thursday, May 4th, 2023

CONTENT WARNING: The following resolution contains mentions of homophobia, transphobia, mentions of violence (including sexual assault and murder), and suicide.

WHEREAS, The Associated Student Government Budget Committee and USD College Republicans presented a funding request of \$21,000 to the ASG Senate, for political commentator Matt Walsh to speak on campus. Per the ASGBC Bylaws, the Senate was required to review the request and decide whether the Student Activity Fee should be used to fund such an event. The Senate decided by a majority vote that it should not be funded.

WHEREAS, Matt Walsh authored a children's book entitled "Johnny the Walrus," and directed a documentary entitled "What is a Woman?", both of which aim to invalidate transgender individuals' identities and perpetuate the spread of discriminatory and anti-LGBTQIA+ messages, threatening the safety of the LGBTQIA+ community. Matt Walsh's platform, as well



as the proliferation of hateful and intolerant speech on his social media accounts, goes against the principles and values of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility that are essential to the livelihood of the USD community and the principles of student life.

WHEREAS, Hate speech is defined as having three specific characteristics. 1. “Hate speech can be conveyed through any form of expression, including images, cartoons, memes, objects, gestures and symbols and it can be disseminated offline or online.” 2. “Hate speech is “discriminatory” (biased, bigoted or intolerant) or “pejorative” (prejudiced, contemptuous or demeaning) of an individual or group.” and 3. “Hate speech calls out real or perceived “identity factors” of an individual or a group, including: “religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, color, descent, gender,” but also characteristics such as language, economic or social origin, disability, health status, or sexual orientation, among many others.”¹

WHEREAS, “59% of transgender boys and men have reported seriously considering suicide in the past year, as did 53% of nonbinary youth and 48% of transgender girls and women,”² and these realities have directly affected the USD community.

WHEREAS, at least 38 transgender individuals or gender nonconforming people, mostly Black and Latinx transgender women, were fatally shot or killed by other violent actions in 2022.³

WHEREAS, threats and acts of violence against transgender and gender nonconforming people continues to be a reality for the community nationwide, with transgender people being four times more likely to experience violent victimization, including rape, sexual assault, and aggravated or simple assault.⁴

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/hate-speech/understanding-hate-speech/what-is-hate-speech>

² <https://time.com/6173081/suicidal-thoughts-lgbtq-youth/>

³ <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-community-in-2022>

⁴ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-trans-press-release/>



WHEREAS, according to Article III, the Non-Discrimination Policy of the USD ASG Constitution, a marginalized group on campus shall consist of the following: “Consistent with its mission, all applicable federal and state laws, and University policies, this organization, and subordinate bodies do not tolerate unlawful discrimination against or harassment of its employees, students or applicants for employment or admission on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, pregnancy, age, physical disability, mental disability, or other characteristic protected by federal or state law, unless a particular characteristic is a bona fide requirement of the position.”⁵

WHEREAS, the ASG Mission Statement states that “The Associated Student Government Leadership Team serves the University of San Diego undergraduates as official representatives, who promote opportunities for growth and expression, address student issues, and enrich a diverse, inclusive, and engaged community.”⁶

WHEREAS, the Student Activity Fee is generated and received from all undergraduate students. In its usage the fee is designed, as stated as its purpose, to foster an “opportunity to grow and feel welcome outside of the classroom environment.”⁶ Guest speakers that promote hateful, intolerant, and/or violent ideals, undermine the university’s mission by bolstering anti-queer and anti-trans ideals and violence towards the LGBTQIA+ community and other BIPOC community members.

WHEREAS, ASG has historically provided funding for USD’s LGBTQIA+ organizations, with events such as, but not limited to, the Transgender Day of Visibility, Trans Day of Remembrance, LGBTQ+ Wellness Week, and the Queer and Trans Student Union Inaugural Ball.

⁵ <https://www.sandiego.edu/associated-student-government/documents/ASG-Spring-21-Constitution.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.sandiego.edu/associated-student-government/about/>

⁶ <https://www.sandiego.edu/associated-student-government/documents/FAQ-Student-Activity-Fee-.pdf>



BE IT RESOLVED, The ASG Senate declares that Matt Walsh and other figures with platforms built on hateful and intolerant speech shall be denied speaking platforms at the University of San Diego at large. Furthermore, the Senate stands in the belief that his presence would foster an unsafe environment on campus for those that identify within the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASG Senate does not tolerate forms of homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination based on sexual identity and gender identification on campus, as well as the perpetuation of violence to any any group listed above in alignment with Associated Student Government and University of San Diego's Mission Statement and Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any proposed guest speaker whose platform consists of inciting hateful speech against marginalized groups will not be funded or supported by the Associated Student Government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if another guest speaker were to come, or is requested that is not aligned with our mission statement and values and is a proponent of hate speech and intolerance, the ASG Senate shall be empowered to take any powers within our ability to ensure enhanced support for the Queer and Trans Student Union, and other LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC organizations on campus dedicated to uplifting marginalized spaces and our queer community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Associated Student Government shall work with the Department of Student Affairs, the office of Student Activities and Involvement, and other relevant university administrators and departments to implement a policy that bars any guest speaker who engages in hate speech and intolerance against marginalized communities, especially the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be delivered to the following individuals for comment and action: Dr. James T. Harris III, *President, University of San Diego*; Dr. Gail Baker, *Senior Vice President and Provost*; Ms. Charlotte Johnson, *Vice President for Student Affairs*; Dr. Regina Dixon-Reeves, *Vice Provost, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*; Dr. Byron Howlett, *Assistant Vice President for Student Life*; Dr. Nicole Whitner, *Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students*; Dr. Soha Jafarzade, *Associate Director for Community Engagement & Inclusion*; Mr. Andrew Allen, *Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives*; Dr. Timothy Keane, *Dean, Knauss School of Business*; Dr. Noelle Norton, *Dean, College of Arts and Sciences*; Dr. Chell Roberts, *Dean Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering*; Ms. Janes Georges, *Dean of Nursing and Health Science*; Ms. Patricia Marquez, *Dean of Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies*; Kimberly White-Smith, *Dean of School of Leadership and Education Sciences*; Steve Sumner, *2022-23 Chair of University Senate*; Jennifer Lee, *Director of Student Activities and Involvement*.



May 11, 2023

Co-Author, Anna Janumov, The IDEA Committee Chair

Date



May 11, 2023

Co-Author, Jacob Aragon, At-Large Senator

Date

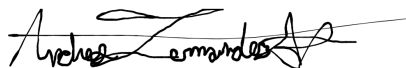


May 11, 2023

Co-Author, Chloe Cohen, At-Large Senator

Date





May 10, 2023

Andres Fernandez Perez, The Associated Student Governemnt Speaker of the Senate

Date



May 12, 2023

Melissa Joy Tumlos, The President of The Associated Student Government

Date

