



THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

11th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SENATE

October 23rd, 2024

RESOLUTION #5405
Formal Condemnation of Blackface on Colorado State University's Campus

NOTICE: *A signature to sponsor means that you only wish for the legislation to be heard, a signature to endorse means that you support the contents and/or actions of this legislation.*

WRITTEN BY: Mitchell Meyers Senator for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and Chair of the DEI affairs committee

COLLABORATED WITH:

SPONSORED BY:

ENDORSED BY: Jebrail Dempsey, Director of Diversity and Inclusion; Enock Monanti, Senator for the Black/African American Cultural Center and Secretary for the Internal Affairs Committee; Fiona Miller, Senator for the Asian and Pacific American Cultural Center and Chair of the University Affairs Committee; Ellie Lutz, Senator for the Warner College of Natural Resources and Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee; Jakye Nunley, ASCSU Chief of Staff; Nevaeh Greene, Senator for the Pride Resource Center; Morgan Snyder Senator for the College of Liberal Arts and Chair of the Accessibility Caucus; Haleigh Yankoski, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; Diana Herrera, Senator, Academic Advancement Center; Vladimir Lora Pardo, Senator, Academic Advancement Center; Odeth Tomas-Sarat, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Madeleine Kamberg, ASCSU Parliamentarian; Yoseline Rivera, Senator, El Centro; Jared McGlothlin, Senator, College of Engineering; University Affairs Committee; DEI Affairs committee; Olivia Friske Senator, Survivor Advocacy and Feminist Education Center, Chair, Women and Social Justice Caucus;

ABSTRACT: *This legislation aims to condemn acts of violent racism of any kind on CSU's campus, specifically those perpetrated by the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, as well as to call upon Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) leadership and CSU administration to take comprehensive action to reduce acts of bias of all kinds on campus.*

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WHEREAS,

Colorado State University has 5 principles of community, Integrity, Respect, Inclusion, Service, and Social Justice and it is an expectation that all students follow and practice these principles when engaging in CSU affiliated activity of any kind; and,

WHEREAS,

On Thursday September 5th, 2024, the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity posted a recruitment banner outside their chapter house allegedly depicting "Uncle Sam" with blackface; and,

WHEREAS,

According to The Collegian, it was alleged that a CSU student was subject to the use of violent racial slurs when taking photo evidence of the banner; and,

WHEREAS,

It was recorded and publicly shared that members of the said fraternity threatened to lie to police as a form of retribution to the student recording from the sidewalk; and,

WHEREAS,

The things mentioned in the two previous two whereas can subjectively be interpreted as discriminatory harassment; and,

WHEREAS,

The student code of conduct defines discriminatory harassment and/or violence as, "threats, intimidation, coercion, bodily harm or other unwelcome behavior, through any method of communication directed at an individual or individuals on the basis of sex, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, genetic information, race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry, sexuality, age, religion, pregnancy, or disability that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive such that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a person's academic or work performance, or a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the university's programs, services, opportunities, or activities, when viewed through both an objective and subjective standard"; and,

WHEREAS,

While the intent of the banner was not to display blackface, regardless of that fact, racial violence and harm to the community was the result; and,

*WHEREAS,

The Rocky Mountain Student Media Corporation reported "breaking news" of Lambda Chi's banner before speaking with both parties or doing an investigation; and,

*WHEREAS,

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Harm could have been mitigated but instead was amplified to harm more than the individuals who initially encountered the banner to harm hundreds if not thousands of students; and,

***WHEREAS,**

Due to the unethical journalism exhibited by The Rocky Mountain Student Media Corporation, every party heretofore mentioned was harmed; and,

WHEREAS,

In conversation with FSL leadership, it was shared that the recruitment banner in question was not in violation of FSL code of conduct due to the fraternity's claim that it was accidental. Additionally, there has been and will be no internal FSL investigation; and,

WHEREAS,

In the previously mentioned conversation with FSL leadership, they stated that they have "too many students" to require them all to attend DEI trainings. Despite this statement, some organizations already require DEI trainings; and,

WHEREAS,

The Fraternity and Sorority Life website states "A non-negotiable value of the CSU fraternity and sorority community is inclusivity and social justice. Examining the history of fraternities and sororities to uncover exclusion and racial trauma and to consider current oppression must remain core to our efforts. This value calls fraternity and sorority members to engage in individual and systemic work to address oppression and examine social justice efforts in the fraternity and sorority context and beyond"; and,

WHEREAS,

In conversation with FSL leadership it was shared that DEI trainings and programs are not a requirement for fraternity members that are not on the executive board and that it is to the discretion of the "diversity officer" of each fraternity to implement DEI trainings; and,

WHEREAS,

For the purpose of this resolution, DEI trainings can encompass, but are not limited to topics such as: racism, bias awareness, social identities, colorism, misogyny, homophobia, xenophobia, islamophobia, antisemitism, intersectionality, ableism, microaggressions, empathetic listening, communicating across difference, classism, power-based violence, bystander intervention, active allyship, white supremacy, equity versus equality, and conflict resolution; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

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The ASCSU Senate calls upon the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and impacted community members to seek the resources of the Student Resolution Center to hold a restorative justice event to address the harm caused; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That regardless of intent, harm was inflicted on the CSU community, specifically, to students of color by the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity's actions, depiction of Uncle Sam in blackface, and that a more substantial response from the organization and FSL leadership is required; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That FSL work with the university to update and increase their DEI training requirements for their members. Furthermore, that the effectiveness of these trainings is tracked by FSL and informs future DEI initiatives; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That President Amy Parsons call for the formation of a presidential task force to investigate all FSL organizations on campus for past, present, and potential incidents of bias as these organizations far too often perpetrate violent racism, homophobia, xenophobia, misogyny, and ableism; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That a report be created by the office of the president be presented to the Senate with a timeline on the creation of the task force as well as a plan on how Amy Parsons will personally ensure a significant reduction in bias-based incidents perpetrated by students and registered student organizations at Colorado State University. Furthermore, that CSU administration organize office hours, a hotline, or a feedback form in order to hear from students who were harmed by this and/or increase funding and support for existing resources such as the Bias Reporting Line and Tell Someone; and,

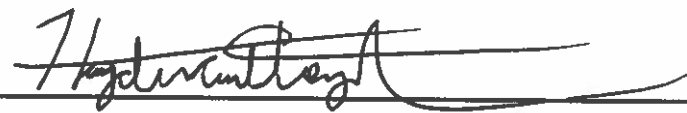
THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Amy Parsons, President, Colorado State University; Tony Frank, Chancellor, CSU System; Blanche Hughes, Vice President, Student Affairs; Ben Schrader, ASCSU Advisor; Evan Welch, ASCSU Advisor; JoAnn Cornell, Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; Duan Ruff, Director, Black/African American Cultural Center; Aaron Escobedo Garmon, Director, El Centro; Maggie Hendrickson, Director, Pride Resource Center; Tyrone Smith, Director of the Native American Cultural Center; Victoria Benjamin, Director, Survivor Advocacy & Feminist Education Center; Erica LaFehr, Assistant Director for Educational Programs, Survivor Advocacy & Feminist Education Center; Justin Dove, Director, Student Disability Center;

PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF RESOLUTION 5405
9th SESSION OF THE 54TH SENATE

Yays - Nays - Abstentions

24-1-1



1/21/2025

ASCSU SPEAKER OF THE SENATE HAYDEN TAYLOR

DATE

**signature not required*

ASCSU PRESIDENT NICK DESALVO

DATE

RESOURCES:

* An asterisk notes a retraction made by the author of those specific edits. Those particular edits made in committee shall be formally retracted with a second piece of legislation due to factual information to the contrary becoming available after the passage of this legislation.

(It should be additionally noted that those edits did not go through the process to be seen in other committees or sent out in advance of the vote on this legislation.)

See Resolution #5406 – Amending the Resolution Condemning Blackface to More Accurately Reflect the Media's Involvement

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THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO:

Amy Parsons, President of Colorado State University
Tony Frank, Chancellor of the Colorado State University System
Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs of Colorado State University
Lance Wright, Interim Director of Student Leadership, Involvement, & Community Engagement
Evan Welch, Talent Development Specialist, Interim ASCSU Advisor
Lindsay Mason, Director of Off-Campus Life, Interim ASCSU Advisor
Ben Schrader, Director of the Adult Learner and Veteran Services, Interim ASCSU Advisor
JoAnn Cornell, Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center
Duan Ruff, Director of the Black/African American Cultural Center
Aaron Escobedo Garmon, Director of El Centro
Maggie Hendrickson, Director of the Pride Resource Center
Tyrone Smith, Director of the Native American Cultural Center
Victoria Benjamin, Director for the Survivor Advocacy & Feminist Education Center
Erica LaFehr, Assistant Director for Educational Programs for the Survivor Advocacy & Feminist Education Center
Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center

ARCHIVE INFO [Parliamentarian Use Only]

INTRODUCTION DATE/SESSION:

The 9th session of the 54th Senate, October 9th, 2024

ARCHIVE DATE:

COMMITTEE'S REVIEWED:

Internal Affairs Committee, University Affairs Committee,
and Diversity Equity and Inclusion Affairs Committee

MONETARY? Y/N

N

Statement of the Internal Affairs Committee of the 54th Senate of the Associate Students of Colorado State University condemning all forms of discrimination in and around CSU's campus

White supremacy exists in many forms, perhaps the most nefarious being white privilege. Take, for example, an accidental incident of blackface on a banner. It is easy for white people to not engage, to think it's a shame that it happened, to simply ignore it. However, for students of color, that is flat-out not the case. The ability to ignore disgusting acts of racism, bias, and harm, even if accidental, is white privilege, and by extension white supremacy, in its most devious form. To condemn actions without acting is white privilege. White supremacy and white privilege are all too often the norm and not the exception and any action that furthers this evil agenda must be recognized and called out for what it is. The Internal Affairs Committee of the 54th Senate of the Associate Students of Colorado State University hereby condemns, in words and in actions, the culture of white supremacy and privilege on CSU's campus and institutions. Intersectionality of all peoples, whether they hold a marginalized identity or identities or not, is the only path forward. A united front must be formed to fight against bigotry, racism, sexism, and all other forms of hate. In closing, the Internal Affairs Committee of the 54th Senate of the Associate Students of Colorado State University stands with all students who have experienced hate or other forms of discrimination. We are arm-in-arm, and stand together.