

Resolution to: Empowering Black Student Success
Resolution Year | 2024 -01
Authored By: Siaje Gideon & Justin Cadiz

Whereas, the Associated Students, Inc. of the California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) Board of Directors is the official governing body of the students of CSUSM; and,

Whereas, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) of California State University San Marcos is the primary advocate for students at CSUSM and provides services designed to create and enhance a learning-focused campus environment; and,

Whereas, ASI's mission is to serve, engage, and empower students. ASI has the responsibility to inform CSUSM students about issues that affect our student population; and,

Whereas, CSUSM serves and educates the Black/African American population, which is 3.8% of the total CSUSM population¹, consisting of first-generation students, low-income, foster-youth, international students, native and transfer students; and,

Whereas Black/African American students have been persistently underrepresented throughout the history of CSUSM as compared to the traditional student groups at CSUSM²; and,

Whereas, President Ellen Neufeldt has charged a workgroup, Advancement of Black Excellence, chaired by Vice Provost Dr. Mary Oling-Sissay composed of students, faculty, and staff, to explore further recommendations for CSUSM considering the California State University (CSU) report: Advancing Black Student Success³ and Elevating Black Excellence in the CSU Call to Action reports⁴; and,

Whereas, according to the California State University (CSU) report: Advancing Black Student Success and Elevating Black Excellence in the CSU Call to Action, Recommendation 4: Creating a welcoming and affirming space, states "To foster a greater sense of belonging for Black students on campus, the 23 universities will strive for a culture that accepts and celebrates all students. Associated steps include creating Black-designed and inspired campus spaces, living and learning residences in CSU housing, and Black Resource Centers on all campuses. To create a culture of care for students, the CSU will also prioritize hiring culturally competent mental health professionals and campus police trained in community policing."; and,

¹ <https://news.csusm.edu/fast-facts/>

² <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/facts-about-the-csu/Documents/facts2023.pdf>

³ <https://www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/diversity/Documents/highlights.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/Recommendations-for-Securing-Black-Student-Success.aspx>

Whereas, the California State Student Association (CSSA) 2016- 2017 Resolution in Support of Black and African American Students Recruitment and Retention in California State Universities⁵, resolved “that CSSA urges that each CSU, their Division of Academic Affairs and the Division of Student Affairs, particularly the Office of Admissions and Records, Office of University Outreach and New Student Programs, and Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers, actively engage with their campus AS/ASI and Black Student Union in producing or developing other solutions to prioritize black student enrollment, recruitment, and retention”; and,

Whereas, human development models suggest that faculty and staff, particularly those who share the same identity as their students, can help establish surroundings where students are valued, feel safe and accepted, and have social networks with alignment with the CSU, Office of the Chancellor, Recommendation 3: Develop a comprehensive retention and persistence strategy for black students⁴, “This strategy would help enrolled Black students persist to graduation. The strategy’s four components include a personalized student support model and case management approach to help each individual student; enhanced advising that builds a connection to campus and financial resources; efforts to reengage and reenroll students who have not completed their degree; and initiatives, services, and practices to support Black students, such as first-year experiences and increasing Black student participation in high impact practices like internships or study abroad”; and,

Whereas, multiple CSUSM students and Black faculty and staff have expressed concerns regarding the lack of and need for Black/African American student’s voices of concerns/ input in decision-making conversations, committees, and resources tailored to the needs of Black/African American communities; and,

Resolved, that ASI evaluates policies, procedures, and Bylaws to best align with ASI values and mission to support all communities including black and African American student success. To ensure ASI is a welcoming and safe space for all CSUSM students in accordance with Recommendation 3, of California State University (CSU) report: Advancing Black Student Success and Elevating Black Excellence in the CSU Call to Action; and,

Resolved, that according to the California State University (CSU) report: Advancing Black Student Success and Elevating Black Excellence in the CSU Call to Action, Recommendation 4, ASI shall reevaluate avenues for dealing with discrimination and harassment towards Black/African American students to consist of an advocate if needed for the student such as Dean of Students (DOS), Student Health and Counseling Services, Office of Inclusive Excellence (OIE), Black Student Center (BSC) but not limited to these resources; and,

Resolved, that ASI shall strategically share resources with Black and African American students by making sure marketing of resources to include Black/African American students as “Research shows that representation within the classroom [organizations] not only increases feelings of belonging but also supports a positive school environment where students feel more confident in their abilities and accelerates academic achievement (Reginal, 2021⁶)”; and,

⁵ <https://www.calstatestudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/05-06-17-Resolution-in-Support-of-Black-and-African-American-Students-Recruitment-and-Retention-in-the-California-State-Universities.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/providing-better-support-students-color-importance-school-climate-belonging-and-well-being>

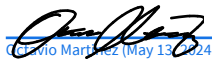
Resolved, that ASI shall strategically plan, engage, and create awareness and advocacy through partnerships with students, departments, spaces, groups across campus such as the Black Student Center, Office of Inclusive Excellence, other Student Life Centers for Identity, and community partnerships by fostering relationships and avenues for advocacy and community support to raise awareness in Black/ African-American communities. This may be delegated to ASI diversity, equity, and inclusive representatives but it is not limited; and,

Resolved, that ASI shall collaborate with the university such as the Black Student Center, Office of Inclusive Excellence, other Student Life Centers for Identity, Black Student Success work groups, but not limited to, to implement comprehensive strategies and achieve results outlined in the CSU's Call to Action: 13 Recommendations for Securing Black Student Success; and,

Resolved, that ASI Board of Directors (BOD) strongly recommends that CSUSM increase diverse faculty, staff, and administrators and improve the diversity of its student population in agreement with ASI's Board of Directors Resolution 15/16, In Support of a Black/ African American Student Resource Center⁷; and further let it be,

Resolved, that Associated Students, Inc. forwards this resolution to the CSUSM Office of the President, the CSUSM Academic Senate, the Cougar Chronicle Newspaper, all CSUSM Student Organizations, the California State Student Association, CSU Chancellor Mildred Garcia, and the California State University Board of Trustees.

I, Octavio Martinez, 24/25 ASI President, hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Board of Directors of Associated Students, Inc., at a regularly scheduled meeting held on May 10, 2024.


Octavio Martinez (May 13, 2024 16:55 PDT)

05/13/2024

Octavio Martinez

Date

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https://www.csusm.edu/asi/documents/bod/resolutions/2016_02_19_african_american_center.pdf