

**California State University San Marcos Associated Students Inc. Board of Directors' Resolution 15/16-01
In Support of a Black/African American Student Resource Center**

Whereas, The great wealth and power of the United States of America was built on the extraction of the two most underrepresented groups; American Indian land and resources and enforced labor from enslaved Africans. Therefore, though severely underrepresented, they are hardly minor players in the history and culture of this country; and

Whereas, Public institutions serving the people of California, which similarly benefited from the land and labor of underrepresented minorities while excluding them from those benefits; and

Whereas, The State of Higher Education in California Reports stated African American students continue to be underrepresented in every segment of higher education and have lower levels of college degree attainment than other racial/ethnic groups¹; and

Whereas, California State Governor Jerry Brown has incentivized CSU institutions with a \$25 million grant for campuses to craft innovative ways to improve graduation and retention rates;² and

Whereas, California higher education institutions, California State University Fullerton, California State University Northridge, Cal Poly Pomona, San Jose State University, California State University East Bay, Stanford University, University of California Santa Cruz, and University of California Santa Barbara, all have resource centers or are working on establishing a Black/African-American Resource Center or something similar to one; and

Whereas, Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) is the official voice of over 12,000 students, with the mission to serve, engage and empower students and to express student opinions, foster awareness of student issues, and protect the rights and interests of students; and

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

Whereas, CSUSM's mission statement values diversity, but its faculty demographic is just as abysmal as the ethnic makeup of its student population; and

Whereas, CSUSM serves and educates a Black/African-American student population which is 3% of the total CSUSM student population, consisting of first generation students, low-income students, international students, native and transfer students; and

Whereas, 70% of African-American students who are admitted to the university experience a greater need for remediation

Whereas, Scholars such as Drs. James Banks and Gloria Ladsen-Billings have documented the importance of culturally relevant pedagogies to Black student scholarly success, and Drs. Loo and Rolison³ have documented the alienation, generally, of racial minority students;

Whereas, Multiple CSUSM students have expressed concerns regarding racism from students and the lack of and need for a Black/African-American Student focused program and resource center tailored to their need that provides a comfortable space for students to congregate and acquire academic and professional mentoring; and

¹ The State of Higher Education in California-Blacks. http://collegecampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2015-State-of-Higher-Education_Blacks.pdf.

² <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2015-16/pdf/BudgetSummary/FullBudgetSummary.pdf>

³ http://www.jstor.org/stable/1981466?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

Whereas, Student success and retention are highly dependent on academic advising and support in the form of both academic and professional programs and student centers; and

Whereas, Allied CSUSM students, faculty, and members from the Black Student Union shared their experiences and specifically asked for a space that would foster an environment where Black students could feel safe and thrive both academically and socially at the Presidents Oct. 1st forum, and presented her with a formal letter stating their verbal request November 20, 2015; and

Whereas, President Karen Haynes has charged a work group composed of students, faculty, and staff, to further explore recommendations with a request to report their findings by May 1, 2016.

Resolved, That California State University San Marcos institutionalize support systems for Black/African American students by establishing a resource center for the underrepresented student groups. This resource center should have the following resources and support, acting as a hub for students, including but not limited to:

1. Resources: adequate academic support, (tutoring, outreach, study groups, faculty mentoring, peer mentoring, etc.) graduate support, counseling, research opportunities, professional opportunities, workshops/training, financial aid resources, scholarships, internships, career/professional development
2. Community Involvement: student organization support, cultural programs, service learning, civic engagement, special events (conferences, guest speakers, showcases)
3. Facilities: computer lab, study space, community lounge, kitchen, meeting space, cultural collections (art, music, and literature);

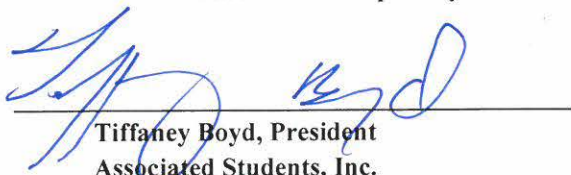
Resolved, That California State University San Marcos takes a student-centered approach, as determined by the authors of this resolution and the President's Assigned Task Force; and

Resolved, That ASI Board of Directors strongly recommends that CSUSM moves swiftly in increasing its hiring of diverse faculty, staff, and administrators and improve the diversity of its student population; and let it be further

Resolved, That Associated Students will make this document public and will forward this resolution to all affected parties, including but not limited to: CSUSM Office of the President, CSUSM Office of Student Affairs, CSUSM Office of the Provost, CSUSM University Advancement, CSUSM Administration and Finance, Office of Equity and Diversity, CSUSM Academic Senate, California State Student Association Professional Staff, California State Student Association President, California State Student Association Social Justice and Equity Council, CSUSM Cougar Chronicle.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Passed and Adopted by the Associated Students of California State University San Marcos
Board of Directors**



Tiffany Boyd, President
Associated Students, Inc.
California State University, San Marcos

February 19, 2016
Date