



Resolution to: Support for Increasing Lactation Rooms and Student Parent Resources at CSUSM

Resolution 2022-02

Authored By: Julia Glorioso

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 is dedicated to providing services designed to create and enhance a learning-focused campus environment; and

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

Whereas, student parents face a number of unique challenges and barriers within higher education; and

Whereas, according to California Competes, student parents are more likely to identify as female and be a person of color¹; and

Whereas, AB 2785 (2018) states that it "...would require the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and encourage a satellite campus of these systems and the University of California, to provide reasonable accommodations to a lactating student on their respective campuses to express breast milk, breast-feed an infant child, or address other needs related to breast-feeding, as specified"²; and

Whereas, California State Law AB 2785 of 2018 defines reasonable lactation accommodations as "Access to a private and secure room, other than a restroom, to express breast milk or breast-feed an infant child. The room shall have a comfortable place to sit and have a table or shelf to place equipment"³; and

Whereas, in 2020 CSUSM's Student Affairs Student Parent Accommodations Working Group created an Interim Lactation Policy that include guidelines and procedures for compliance with the 2018 California State Law for students (AB 2785) and the 2019 California State Law for employees (SB 142); and

Whereas, limited data exists on student parents within California State University San Marcos and the entire CSU system and ASCEND The Aspen Institute confirms that it is important to "Regularly collect data on students who are parents — their mental health, their needs, their utilization of on-campus services, their feelings of connectedness and belonging on campus"⁴; and

Whereas, according to California Competes, "...because limited data exist on student parents, their experiences, and their outcomes, state and institutional leaders tend to overlook this population's needs"⁵; and

Whereas, dedicated student-parent spaces are necessary to promote student success as California Competes explains that California universities should “foster child-friendly campuses and reduce stigma faced by student parents by offering family-friendly spaces, services, and supports, such as administrative offices that allow students to bring children to appointments”⁶; and

Whereas, there are four lactation rooms on the main CSUSM campus with only one being located in an academic building and none at CSUSM’s Satellite campus, CSUSM Temecula; and

Whereas, CSUSM does not have a student parent lactation policy; and

Whereas, student parents at CSUSM are in need of further institutional support from the University when it comes to family friendly resources, spaces, and information sharing; and

Resolved, that ASI urges the University to implement a clear lactation policy per AB 2785 (2018) to “prohibit students from incurring an academic penalty as a result of their use of these reasonable accommodations” and that the policy includes a clear process for requesting accommodations and for filing a complaint. In the lactation policy, the University should be sure to include reasonable accommodations for lactation breaks as students may need to pump during class; and

Resolved, that ASI urges the University to increase access to their Title IX resources by more widely sharing information through websites, trainings, and communications that pertains to student parents and individuals lactating in order for these students to be aware of their rights and available accommodations; and

Resolved, that ASI requests the University Administration and Title IX resource office to provide a centralized location on the CSUSM website that includes all lactation rooms available for use on campus and where these spaces are located as well as the lactation policy; and

Resolved, that ASI requests the University to collect data on student parents' experiences, graduation outcomes, and needs to better understand and serve this student population; and

Resolved, that ASI recommends that the University and Title IX resource office through the recommended process of data collection and a Student Parent Coordinator Position, conduct outreach to student parents to provide them with resources and information to help support their student success; and

Resolved, that ASI requests the University to have a permanent multi-person lactation room accessible in all buildings on campus, starting with academic buildings. Those academic buildings that need a lactation room include Academic Hall, Arts Building, Markstein Hall, Science Hall 1, Science Hall 2, Social and Behavioral Sciences Building, and University Hall; and

Resolved, that ASI urges the University to add a permanent, multi-person accessible lactation room at CSUSM’s Satellite campus, CSUSM Temecula, per the recommendation in AB 2785; and

Resolved, that ASI requests that the University add a permanent multi-person accessible space for a lactation room in any future additions of buildings that are built at CSUSM; and

Resolved, that ASI requests that the current lactation rooms and any future additions of lactation rooms are adequately maintained and are provided with lactation accessories for hospital grade pump usage, comfortable seating such as reclining chairs, are regularly sterilized, and stocked with informational flyers on student-parent resources such as childcare resources, Title IX resources, the USU Commuter Lounge Refrigerated Lockers to store milk, and other available resources; and

Resolved, that ASI advocates for the University to seek to further increase opportunities and support for student parents beyond lactation spaces such as additions of dedicated study or lounging spaces on campus for student parents to utilize, additions of changing tables to campus restrooms, and other family friendly resources; and

Resolved, that Associated Students, Inc. forwards this resolution to the CSUSM Office of the President, the CSUSM Academic Senate, CSUSM Title IX Discrimination, Harassment, & Retaliation Office, the Cougar Chronicle Newspaper, all CSUSM Student Organizations, the California State Student Association, Interim Chancellor Jolene Koester, and the California State University Board of Trustees.

¹ <https://californiacompetes.org/blog/the-landscape-of-parenting-students-an-incomplete-picture-of-the-challenges-student-parents-face-to-educational-success>

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2785

³ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2785

⁴ https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MentalHealthFramework_Final.pdf

⁵ <https://californiacompetes.org/blog/the-landscape-of-parenting-students-an-incomplete-picture-of-the-challenges-student-parents-face-to-educational-success>

⁶ https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MentalHealthFramework_Final.pdf

I, Julia Glorioso, 22/23 ASI President, hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by Board of Directors of Associated Students, Inc., at a regularly scheduled meeting held on May 6, 2022



09/16/2022

Julia Glorioso Date

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