



Resolution in Opposition to California State Senate Bill No.5

Associated Students, Inc.

Cal State University- San Marcos 2004-2005

WHEREAS; Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) is the official recognized voice of over 7,000 students at Cal State University San Marcos which is located within the 38th Senate district represented by California State Senator Bill Morrow; and

WHEREAS; Senator Morrow has introduced Senate Bill No. 5 (SB 5), also known as the Public post-secondary education standard: Student Bill of Rights, which requests the Trustees of the California State University to develop and implement a set of guidelines and principles related to academic freedom; and,

WHEREAS; the students of Cal State San Marcos hold the constitutional right to free speech in high regard and recognize that it is the mission of the University to foster in students a maturity and independence of mind by providing within the classroom and university an environment where students and faculty are free to express the widest range of viewpoints within the standards of scholarly inquiry and professional ethics; and

WHEREAS; SB 5 specifies that “teachers should not take unfair advantage of a student's immaturity by indoctrinating him or her with the teacher's own opinions”; and,

WHEREAS; SB 5 further specifies that “Curricula and reading lists in the humanities and social sciences shall respect the uncertainty and unsettled character of all human knowledge in these areas, and provide students with dissenting sources and viewpoints”; and,

WHEREAS; SB 5 disrespects the maturity of students across all political, ideological, and religious spectra and our abilities as individuals to stand up for our beliefs and would use the banner of academic freedom and students' rights to undermine the safety and integrity of our learning environment; and,

WHEREAS; ASI believes that academic freedom is the notion that truth is best discovered through the open investigation of data and through a broad and open inquiry regardless of personal beliefs. And that such inquiry requires an atmosphere devoid of fear, reprisal, and ridicule; and,

WHEREAS; ASI recognizes that a “Student Bill of Rights” must originate from or be written in consultation with actual students to be legitimate and effective policies of this nature are best created with consultation of all constituent groups at the campus wide level and not through the efforts of external bodies; therefore be it

RESOLVED; that Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) of Cal State San Marcos opposes Senate Bill No. 5 and any attempts to undermine the integrity of our learning environment; and therefore be it

FURTHER RESOLVED; that ASI equally opposes any form of indoctrination and ideological intimidation, and encourages any students who truly suspect such activities to report them via existing student grievance policies; and therefore be it

FURTHER RESOLVED; that the ASI will lobby state legislators including Senator Morrow in opposition of Senate Bill No. 5; and be it finally

FINALLY RESOLVED; that this resolution be distributed to the Academic Senate, the University President, the Provost, and the Vice Presidents of Cal State San Marcos as well as the local and capitol offices of all State Legislators in our region and the local media in the form of a press release.

