

Recognizing that UCLA is a “UC Against Islamophobia”

Whereas, Islamophobia is defined as ideologies, beliefs, and actions that perpetuate inaccurate and xenophobic views toward the culture and practice of Islam and the personification of its followers, such as being seen as monolithic, seen as a separate and „other“ culture that does not share common values, seen as inferior to the West, seen as violent, aggressive, and supportive of terrorism, seen as sexist and oppressive of women, seen as a political ideology used for political advantage, anti Muslim hostility, and exclusionary or discriminatory practices against Muslims from mainstream society; and

Whereas, Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, Muslims, people of Middle Eastern descent, and even those mistaken as such, have increasingly become targets of hate and bigotry in our nation and around the world (1); and

Whereas, The effects of such Islamophobia have been seen by the recent removal of three respected religious figures from airline flights as a result of passengers being uncomfortable with having Muslims on board (2)(3); and

Whereas, There has been an increase in harassment against Muslims on campus, including of women wearing the hijab, with 11 reported hate incidents in this past school year 2010-2011 including the de-scarfing of a Muslim woman on campus by an agitator who proceeded to call her a „terrorist“, and a „n*gg*r who will never go to heaven“ and in another incident a man threatened a group of Muslims on Bruin Walk when he said „You will all end up like the Native Americans“ (4); and

Whereas, On Wednesday May 11th controversial speaker David Horowitz made false allegations on campus against the Muslim Students Association and the Afrikan Student Union, and further instilled hate against Muslims by stating that “Islam is a sick, sick culture” (5)(6); and

Whereas, UCLA Muslim students have had a history of active engagement in issues of social justice and representation, through various community service projects which provide health-care, educational assistance, and mentorship to under-served communities in the Los Angeles area since 1988 (7); and

Whereas, Our campus and institutions of higher learning should be havens of tolerance and acceptance, where acts of hate based on religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, citizenship status, or class, are condemned by the administration and other members of the campus community as supported and defined by the UCLA Principles of Community; and

Whereas, The UCLA undergraduate student body passed a student advisory vote initiative in the 2011 Spring elections that calls for a replacement in the current General Education Requirements to integrate diversity into the general education curriculum (8); and

Whereas, These past few weeks, a group of UC students under the supervision of Professor Bruce Bimber at the University of California Santa Barbara, collectively founded the UC Against Islamophobia site to represent UC solidarity against acts of hate towards Muslims, people of Middle Eastern descent, those mistaken as such, on our campuses and in our communities (9); and

Whereas, The UC Against Islamophobia site serves as an avenue for discussion, education, and awareness regarding the acts of hate toward Muslim identifying individuals or groups and those mistaken as such, and engages in discussion through open dialogue by allowing participants to post videos, articles, thoughts, opinions, and stories, regardless of the poster's political, religious, ethnic identity; and

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports the efforts of the UC Against Islamophobia web page, and will not tolerate acts of Islamophobia, or any form of hatred based on religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, citizenship status, or class, in our campus community.

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council encourages the student body to be conscious of unintended effects that their words and actions may have on others, and to become active allies of marginalized students.

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council does not tolerate or accept the behaviors of students, staff, faculty, or administration that infringe upon the safety of another person and/or develop a hostile and unsafe environment.

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports the efforts of the present work-group between students and respective faculty, in creating a series of general education Introduction to Islam courses, to help foster a better understanding of the religion of Islam and American-Muslim identity.

Let it be further resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council urges the University of California, Los Angeles to financially support and promote all the Ethnic and Religious Studies Interdepartmental Programs, Departments, and Centers at UCLA.

Let it be finally resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council urges the Academic Senate and faculty to support incorporating a general education requirement grounded in the UCLA Principles of Community. (10)

References:

- (1) http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/article/2010/08/promote_community_instead_of_prejudice
- (2) <http://www.cnn.com/2011/TRAVEL/05/07/muslims.kicked.off.plane/index.html?hpt=T2>
- (3) http://www.wfae.org/wfae/1_87_115.cfm?action=display&id=7297
- (4) http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/article/2011/04/overcoming_islamophobia_on_campus
- (5) (Link the DB opinion piece about David Horowitz here - Tuesday)
- (6) David Horowitz at 36:00 calls "Islam a sick, sick culture":
<https://docs.google.com/leaf?id=0B2KNsGzsoC7QMDRiNjhIM2ItOTg4OS00NGRjLWlwNDMtM2Q0M2ZmZTkxOGJi&hl=en&authkey=CJOHvN4K>
More comments: 30:25, 31:25-31:32
- (7) http://msabruins.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=63
- (8)
http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/article/2011/05/majority_of_students_favor_proposal_to_create_ge_diversity_requirement_in_cue_initiative_advisory_vo
- (9) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UC-Against-Islamophobia/170198249702653>
- (10) http://www.diversity.ucla.edu/strategicplan/docs/Principles_of_Community.pdf