



**RESOLUTION No. 2013-14-21**

**AUTHORED BY: Jerry Dinzes, External Affairs Representative**

**REFERRED TO: AS COUNCIL**

**ACTION APPROVED: February 28, 2014**

**SUBJECT: Resolution Calling for Democratized and Student Run CSU Student Unions**

**WHEREAS**, It is the intention of the Associated Students Council (AS Council) of Humboldt State University (HSU) to be vocal on issues that protect and increase student rights, to create opportunities to increase the student perspective in the University decision making process, and to actively seek institutional changes that serve to enhance the student environment<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, In 1966 over  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the enrolled students of HSU voted to finance the construction of the HSU College Union<sup>2</sup> (Union), a project which broke ground in 1971<sup>3</sup>. The Union was to be more than a building, serving as the 'student heart' of campus. The Union was a testament to what students could achieve through democratic efforts. Initially students held a majority of the Governing Board seats with 7 members. The remaining seats were filled by 5 faculty members, and 1 alum<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, In 1972 the name of the Union legally changed to the Humboldt State University Center<sup>5</sup>. The University Center is an independent non-profit corporation. Students currently hold 7 of the 14 Governing Board seats. The remaining seats are filled by 3 faculty members, 2 HSU administrative members, 1 alum, and 1 community member (appointed by Campus President)<sup>6</sup>. The University Center is still your student union; and,

**WHEREAS**, The University Center manages, operates, and accounts for Center Arts, Center Activities, HSU's Dining Services, the Aquatic Center and the Student Recreation Center. Additional services include the booking of conference rooms, gear rental, certification training, leisurely activity programming, and outdoor adventures; and,

**WHEREAS**, Student unions in the California State University (CSU) system have traditionally maintained tight relationships with Associated Student organizations. The CSU student unions were popularized and heavily financed in the 1960's and 1970's under the auspices of the Associated Student

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1 Associated Student Council of Humboldt State University. (Revised: 2013). *Humboldt State University Associated Students Constitution*. Retrieved at: <http://humboldt.edu/associatedstudents/images/uploads/forms/A.S. Constitution 2013 Revised December 2.pdf>.

2 "Record Turnout of Voters Swamp Polls; 71% Approve". *Lumberjack: Humboldt State College*. 4 March 1966. Retrieved at: Archival research through the Humboldt Room of the HSU Library.

3 Public Affairs, Humboldt State University. (1971). "College Union Ground breaking". *HSU Public Affairs Collection*. Retrieved at: Archival research through the Humboldt Room of the HSU Library.

4 Associated Students. (1966). *College Union Proposal*. Retrieved at: Archival research through the Humboldt Room of the HSU Library.

5 Humboldt State University Center. (1972). *Certificate of Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation*. November 9, 1972. Retrieved at: <http://www.humboldt.edu/uc/pdf/UC%20Articles%20of%20Incorporation.pdf>.

6 Humboldt State University Center. (Revised: 2012). *Bylaws of The Humboldt State University Board of Directors*. Retrieved at: <http://www.humboldt.edu/uc/pdf/UniversityCenterBylaws%2012-06-12.pdf>.



organizations. The California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 2913 in the year 1961<sup>7</sup>, allowing student body organizations (with Trustees approval) to finance the construction of a student union (or any “student body center”) upon the vote by a 2/3 majority of the enrolled students at any campus. At the time, student body governments would carry a bond<sup>8</sup> to pay for construction of the union, and be liable for the ongoing paying of bond debt; and,

**WHEREAS**, Since originally enacted in 1961, the language of AB 2913 has been amended to decrease the role of Associated Student organizations in the financing of student unions, though \$40.00 of each student’s “Campus Union fee”<sup>9</sup> typically goes to pay for the ongoing operations of student unions. Now that many of the original 40-year bonds for CSU student unions have been paid off, the role of student governance and oversight over the student unions is less clear than it once was; and

**WHEREAS**, California Education Code does not stipulate that student unions (or any other form of a student body center) must be managed by a democratically elected student board, but historically most student body centers have been operated by independent auxiliaries with a significant portion of student seats; and

**WHEREAS**, A trend is developing in the CSU system, and efforts have been made to reorganize and merge CSU student unions into other entities (i.e. into “super-auxiliaries” or even with the CSU campuses themselves), resulting in a loss of student oversight of buildings that were democratically built through student elections; and,

**WHEREAS**, The students of San Francisco State University have recently lost control of their student union center due to a restructure campaign. San Jose State University students recently fended off a “super-auxiliary” restructure campaign that would have assumed control of the student union. Furthermore, Humboldt State University is currently involved in a restructuring talks that will impact the University Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, Because many students are no longer aware of the democratic roots of their student union, it is the duty of the AS Council to protect these interests and to remind students of their vested stake in a democratized student union; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the AS Council of HSU opposes any auxiliary restructure that would result in the loss of governance of the University Center by an independent auxiliary governing board comprised of 50% student members; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the AS Council calls on the California State Legislature to add Section 89304.1 to Education Code, to read:

*89304.1. (a) (1) Any student body center that is funded with fees approved pursuant section 89304 shall be governed and operated under the authority of an auxiliary that has a governing board of no less than 50% students. The auxiliary should take measures to ensure that students are elected or appointed through democratic and representative mechanisms.*

*(2) The auxiliary that governs a student body center must be independent, and meet requirements of auxiliary organizations commencing with section 89900.*

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<sup>7</sup> Legislative Council, California Assembly. (1961). “Chapter 1750”. *Statutes of California – 1960 – 1961: Volume II*. Retrieved at: Humboldt State University Library.

<sup>8</sup> Note: Bonds take for construction of student body centers occur pursuant the State University Revenue Bond Act of 1947. This law is currently codified as CA Ed. Code 89303. In 1966 it was codified as CA Ed. Code 23804.

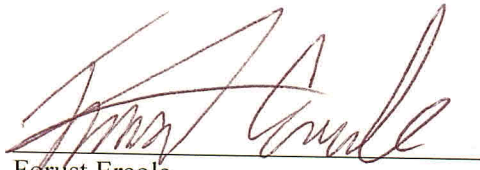
<sup>9</sup> Currently codified as CA Ed. Code 89304 [a].

*(3) At the time of enactment of section 89304.1, any student body center that was operated and governed in a manner not consistent with this section will have until the year 2020 to come into compliance with this section. Any organization or auxiliary currently governing a student body center may be granted an exemption to section 89304.1 upon the vote of two-thirds of the student body. Any referendum seeking this exemption will be prescribed in a manner consistent with the policy of the Board of Trustees, and will explain in detail the impacts of the students' decision.*

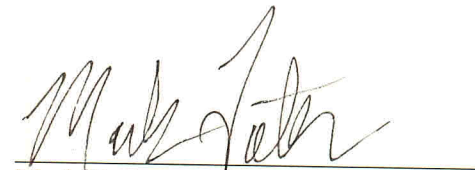
And, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the AS Council calls on the California State Student Association to take a stand by resolution, opposing the loss of student democratic controls over CSU student unions; and be it finally

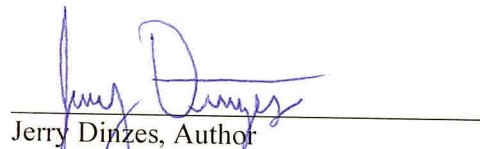
**RESOLVED**, Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the University Center Board of Directors; President Taren Mulhause, Auxiliary Organization Association; Chancellor Timothy White, CSU; the CSU Board of Trustees; President Rollin Richmond, HSU; Vice President of Student Affairs Peg Blake, HSU; Vice President of Administration Joyce Lopes, HSU; Vice President of Academics Bob Snyder, HSU; Vice President of Advancement Craig Wruck, HSU; President Sarah Couch, CSSA; the Associated Students of each of the CSU's 23 campuses; the Humboldt State University Residence Hall Association; Radio Free Humboldt; the Lumberjack; the Times Standard; and the North Coast Journal.



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AS President



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