

Academic Senate Resolution in Support of Trans Students

WHEREAS Santa Rosa Junior College has no current policy regarding transgender students, despite receiving a score of 2 out of 5 in 2016 on the Pride Index¹, a national benchmarking tool that identifies eight factors that can be modified to create a safer environment for LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff;

WHEREAS there has been an increase of anti-trans attitudes throughout California and locally in Sonoma County², and trans students at SRJC have reported feeling isolated, unsafe in dorms, and lack a functioning process to handle discrimination complaints;

WHEREAS trans students face additional burdens, such as specifying preferred pronouns and searching for gender neutral bathrooms, and current California Community College Athletic Association participation policies require trans student-athletes to self-identity and undergo other processes that may cause harm and reproduce trauma;

WHEREAS SRJC's Queer Resource Center (QRC) has not been able to access data needed to provide outreach and support to students who identify as LGBTQ;

RESOLVED that the Board develop policies and procedures aimed to create an LGBTQ supportive campus environment, such as increasing the number of gender-neutral bathrooms, specifying preferred pronouns on rosters, requiring cultural competency training for Resident Assistants (RAs) in dorms, revising the student complaint and grievance process, and providing professional development opportunities on and inclusive curriculum;

RESOLVED that the Board provide QRC leadership with data needed to provide outreach to LGBTQ students and that the QRC collaborate with SRJC Athletics in response to harmful trans student-athlete policies to ensure that trans student-athletes can safely and fully participate in competitive athletics.

¹ The [Pride Index](#) was launched in 2007, and the index's instrument is reviewed yearly by its Advisory Board, which includes university researchers and LGBTQ campus leaders. It is supported by the Campus Pride Q Research Institute for Higher Education. Their evaluative instrument focuses on LGBTQ inclusion in the following eight areas: 1) Policy Inclusion; 2) Support and Institutional Commitment; 3) Academic Life; 4) Student Life; 5) Housing; 6) Campus Safety; 7) Counseling and Health; and 8) Recruitment and Retention Efforts. They compiled a [report for SRJC](#) in 2016.

² As one of several examples, The Press Democrat reported on group called Redwood Holler in the article "[Local businesses, Santa Rosa Junior College, vandalized with 'straight pride' flyers over LGBTQ+ art](#)" on June 12, 2023.