

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 the Superintendent/President develop procedures aimed to create an LGBTQ supportive campus environment, such as increasing the number of gender-neutral bathrooms, specifying preferred pronouns on rosters, ~~requiring~~ recommending 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~~ the Superintendent/President establish procedures to 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.