

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FORTY-NINTH SENATE

4th SESSION

September 12th, 2019

RESOLUTION #4903

Accountability for Hate Speech Against Students

SPONSORED BY: Jaquieyah Fields, Senator, Women and Gender Advocacy Center, Elezabeth Alem, Senator, Black African American Cultural Center, Paulina Villasenor, Associate Senator, El Centro, Huldah Berhe, Senator, Women and Gender Advocacy Center, Emely Cruz Arrazola, Associate Senator, El Centro

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COLLABORATED WITH: Breonna Abuya, Student, Diego Tovar, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources, Rachel Jackson, Vice President, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences

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ABSTRACT: Condemnation of the racist act, known as blackface, that occurred by Colorado State University students on September 8th, 2019.

WHEREAS

NBC News covered on Thursday, September 12th, 2019, in the article titled *White Colorado State students won't be punished over blackface photo* says, “several white Colorado State University students [are] pictured wearing blackface,” and;

WHEREAS

Blackface historically has a long-standing role within racial prejudice in our country, specifically in regard to archetypical stereotypes, and;

WHEREAS

The distinction between putting on cosmetics and performing blackface is demonstrated in the photo when the students used a quote from a movie with an all-Black cast, “Black Panther,” and;

WHEREAS

The combination of the masks, the quote, and the use of hand gestures in the photo create caricatures of Black people and is an impersonation of Black people by the students from Colorado State University in the picture, and;

WHEREAS,

Racial Battle Fatigue, as written by Smith in 2002, warrants that racial microaggressions and macroaggressions incurred by Black college students, “is a serious issue for many aspiring postsecondary students,” and can have “crippling effects on the individual, family, and the workplace,” and;

WHEREAS

Blackface historically and presently exhibits a multitude of psychological impacts for students of color, specifically as a continued practice of racial stereotyping, and;

WHEREAS

In accordance with the Colorado State University Student Conduct Code, Colorado State University prohibits, under the clause Abusive Behavior: “Verbal abuse, threats, coercion, or other conduct, through any method of communication, which threatens or endangers the physical or psychological health, safety, or welfare of any person ”(page 3), and;

WHEREAS

Racial discrimination is a means to psychologically and physically harass the welfare of a marginalized person, and;

WHEREAS

In accordance with the Colorado State University Student Conduct Code, Colorado State University prohibits, under the clause Discriminatory Harassment: “Harassment, in any form, through any means of communication on the basis of sex, gender identity or expression, veteran

status, genetic information, race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, age, religion, pregnancy, or disability, including but not limited to any violation of federal or state laws, or University policy, prohibiting harassment” (page 4). , and;

WHEREAS

This incident, referring to the statement released by one of the students that is pictured in the photo, states the incident took place in a Colorado State University Residence Hall, as she says “On September 8th, 2019, I was involved with three other freshman students (all males) in an incident on my dormitory floor,” and;

WHEREAS

The Policies and Procedures of the Housing and Dining Services of Colorado State University clearly state that it “prohibits the harassment of any member of the University community, meaning verbal or physical harassment, on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or gender identity or gender expression,” and;

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

That the Associated Students of Colorado State University hereby formally disagree with and denounce any offensive rhetoric as it pertains to students, staff, or faculty’s identities, including but not limited to nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and life circumstances. In this purview, the event of blackface by Colorado State University students as published by NBC on September 12th is included.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

That the Associated Students of Colorado State University hereby define the incident of Blackface by Colorado State University students in September of 2019 not as an act of free speech, but as an act of hate speech charged by race discrimination and stereotype that has a lasting detrimental impact on the Black community and the community at Colorado State University.

31-5-2

PASSAGE

9-18-19

DATE

TAGS:

Citations for any external references:

<https://resolutioncenter.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2018/08/Student-Conduct-Code-v2018.pdf>

<https://ascsu.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2018/08/ASCSU-Constitution-4.19.18.pdf>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/white-colorado-state-students-won-t-be-punished-over-blackface-n1053126>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgxwDrHnCzNNxqDNQcXwtxQJBwFML>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_face

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jeremy_Franklin2/publication/236975369_Racial_Battle_Fatigue_and_the_MisEducation_of_Black_Men_Racial_Microaggressions_Societal_Problems_Environmental_Stress/links/00b4951a9668eb2423000000/Racial-Battle-Fatigue-and-the-MisEducation-of-Black-Men-Racial-Microaggressions-Societal-Problems-Environmental-Stress.pdf

<https://housing.colostate.edu/halls/policies/>

<https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2019/09/13/colorado-state-university-blackface-photo-student-viral-photo-releases-full-statement/2314453001/?fbclid=IwAR0pCw0jOumD6FFsDzS2zCWIVWEeqKK9pEoWM2oskR8JR2RE13IYWv5iTpk>