

**Joint Statement from Stockton University and the Stockton University Student Senate on
Resolution FA17-011
Monday, October 16, 2017**

On October 12, 2017, members of the Stockton University Student Senate ('Student Senate') and members of the President's Cabinet and administrative team worked in concert to address Student Senate Resolution FA17-011 (attached), which endorsed student body concerns pertaining to 1) the legacy of the University's namesake, Richard Stockton; and 2) the University's commitment to denounce the ideology of white supremacy and its representations.

The meeting demonstrated an equal commitment to the process of shared governance, yielding vibrant dialogue and invoking critical thinking from all parties in the quest of mutual understanding. As the members addressed each assertion of Resolution FA17-011, it provided opportunity for deeper understanding of the items of concern, and an enhanced awareness of the current institutional priorities and initiatives already in progress to meet those challenges.

More specifically, Stockton University, in partnership with the Student Senate, have reached consensus on the recommendations of Resolution FA17-011, and formed the following conclusions and plan of action:

- ***Create a protocol that is easily accessible for the entire Stockton University community that will inform students, faculty, and staff when a biased incident occurs on campus within 24 hours.***

Refine and Improve Existing Bias Free Initiative: Stockton University will form a task force to address improvements to the university's Bias Free Initiative. Improvements considered will include, but are not limited to: a) enhanced (mobile and web) methods of reporting bias related incidents, b) an opt-in bias incident notification system, and c) a web-based crime log, *developed by the Stockton University Police Department*, for easier access and viewing of the type and status of criminal activity that occurs on campus.

Note: Stockton University has mandatory law enforcement, legal, and statutory reporting obligations that govern the type, the amount, the recipients, and the timing of the information we share with respect to "bias incidents" and criminal activity. We will continue to share information promptly with the community to ensure campus safety, or to assist with an investigation when so advised by the Stockton Police Department, or other local, state, or federal law enforcement personnel.

For more information on the Bias Free Initiative, please visit:
<https://www.stockton.edu/bias-free/>.

- ***Revise the current Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities relating to social justice, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation to be more specific. Enact stricter sanctions on students who violate the Code of Conduct in bias incidents and discrimination.***

Strengthen Language Pertaining to Sanctions: A review of the current Student Code of Conduct revealed an opportunity to strengthen its language pertaining to progressive discipline and sanctions. Accordingly, the following language will be added to the Code of Conduct: *“Minimum sanctions are intended to serve as a guideline, and may be adjusted according to specific situations and circumstances. Misconduct that is motivated by discriminatory intent may result in the imposition of a more serious sanction.”*

- ***Reaffirm Stockton University’s commitment to denounce white supremacy/racism by removing symbols that glorify or are representative of white supremacy; including the Richard Stockton bust and any glorification of Richard Stockton, especially in the proposed university exhibit.***

Stockton University is, and will always be, committed to an environment of inclusiveness and diversity. We promote civility and respect in both individual and institutional interactions, and openly rebuke any ideology of white supremacy and racism.

Clarification of the Stockton Exhibition Project: The Stockton Exhibition Project, which will develop over the coming year, seeks to educate the campus and wider community about our institution's past, which includes the naming of the school and the history of its namesake. Rather than glorification, which intentionally highlights elements of a person or idea, usually to show them in a favorable light, this exhibition will provide an accurate history of Richard Stockton, and further discussions about those complicated issues that surround his legacy. This requires an understanding of our history, sound research, and a multi-faceted, nuanced approach. The Richard Stockton bust is currently housed within the Special Collections archive.

- ***Introduce and enact policies that ensure all student organizations are student led and organized. Limit access and privileges for external groups to organize students on campus.***

Strengthen Existing Language Pertaining to Membership Policy: To help ensure that enrolled Stockton students establish and govern student organizations, we collectively recommend the Office of Student Development strengthen the language of its existing membership policy, with the following content: *“Members of the executive board or governing body of any student organization must be identified on the official membership roster, and must be held by currently enrolled Stockton University students, unless otherwise permitted by the Office of Student Development.”* The new requirement occurs in addition to fulfilling the other prerequisites required for official recognition.

Note: It should be emphasized that student organizations at Stockton be primarily composed of members of Stockton University. Any organization with more than ten percent of its members *not affiliated with Stockton University*, must receive special

authorization in order to obtain recognition. Official recognition may be removed from any group for not fulfilling the rights and responsibilities as defined by the university.

Revise Procedure for Displaying Information: To help ensure the recognition of unauthorized postings or displayed materials on campus, we collectively recommend the Division of Student Affairs revise [Procedure 3120](#)- Posting and Displaying Information on Campus, to include provisions that all postings on campus have a highly visible and identifiable mark of approval from the Office of Event Services and Campus Center Operations.

- ***Request that Stockton University make it a priority to support students of color, especially from the Atlantic City community by funding scholarships in these areas.***

Stockton University remains committed to the upward mobility of the Atlantic City community. In addition to the existing institutional aid awarded to students residing in Atlantic City, the University has developed new funding priorities to support Atlantic City communities that predate the existence of Resolution FA17-011. For more information on the Atlantic City Opportunity Fund and the Atlantic City Scholarship Fund, please visit: <https://elevate.stockton.edu/project/7000>.

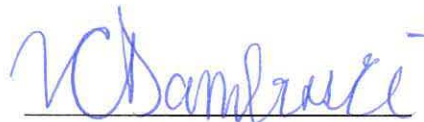
Furthermore, the university has made a shift in our admissions and institutional aid processes, providing more emphasis on need-based aid, to target underfunded and underrepresented populations throughout New Jersey.

Stockton University and the Student Senate share in our bond to ensure a safe and inclusive experience for all who come to our campus. Stockton University will always strive “to provide an environment for excellence,” supporting and defending our values of inclusivity and diversity. Working collectively with Student Senate, based on mutual respect and a commitment to civil discourse, our efforts have resulted in a concrete action plan that will help to support a hate-and-bias free campus environment.

Should you have questions or concerns related to the actions taken from the Student Senate Resolution FA17-011, please contact Stockton University Student Senate at student.senate@stockton.edu.



Dr. Harvey Kesselman
President



Ms. Victoria Dambroski
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