



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Office of the Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Student Affairs

Interoffice Memorandum

RECEIVED APR 01 2008


To: Wynne Chin
President, Faculty Senate

From: Elwyn C. Lee 
Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Student Affairs

Date: April 1, 2008

Subject: Student Government Association Actions

Attached are two Student Government Association (SGA) bills and one resolution passed by the SGA during the spring semester of this year as follows:

- 1) UB44013: "Bill to Recommend the Amendment of the University of Houston Nondiscrimination Statement."
- ~~2) SGAR44009: "Resolution honoring all Vietnamese students at the University of Houston with the raising of an additional flag in the World Affairs Lounge."~~
- ~~3) UB440011: "A University Bill Establishing the U. S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Certification as Standard for New or Replacement Facilities."~~

These actions are forwarded to you for action as appropriate from the University Coordinating Commission.

Attachments

Copy: Marsha Daly
William Munson

Student Government Association
www.uh.edu/sga

51 University Center 713/743-5220
Houston, TX 77204-3031 Fax: 713/743-5222

Label: UB44013

Date Introduced: 3/12/08

Authors: Josephine Tittsworth, Van Hua

Sponsors: Tim O'Brien, Mary Elhardt, Aleah Al-Sad, Brandon Brewton, Jonas Chin, Alejandro Capetillo

Committee: University Administration and Finance

Reading: Amended

Bill to Recommend the Amendment of the University of Houston Nondiscrimination Statement

Whereas, the Education Amendment of 1972 Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..." ; and

Whereas, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 Title VII clearly establishes the foundation for a nondiscrimination statement that is used by all states; and

Whereas, the University of Houston has acknowledged additional protections for other groups within their nondiscrimination statement: "The University of Houston provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation..." ; and

Whereas, the University of Houston approved the inclusion of sexual orientation into the non-discrimination statement; and

Whereas, a United States District Court [Case 424 F. Supp.2d 203 (D.D.C. 2006)] District of Columbia clearly ruled that sexual orientation is not inclusive of gender identity; and

Whereas, within the scope of University of Houston, the current nondiscrimination statement should also be interpreted to ensure the protections of non-traditional groups who have a history of oppression; and

Whereas, there are currently 115 universities in the United States that have included the phrase "Gender Identity and Expression" into their nondiscrimination statement; and


Whereas, Rice University is the first university in Texas to include the phrase "Gender Identity and Expression" into their nondiscrimination statement; and

Whereas, the University of Houston-Clear Lake President's Council, in April 2006, unanimously approved the recommendation to include the phrase "Gender Identity and Expression" into the University of Houston-Clear Lake's nondiscrimination statement.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the 44th Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Article 1: That the University of Houston approve the inclusion of the phrase "Gender Identity and Expression" into the University of Houston's nondiscrimination statement.

Article 2: That the University of Houston is hereby requested to develop a comprehensive policy on campus to accommodate compliance to the amended nondiscrimination statement (as described in *Article 1*) to protect the rights of all faculty, staff, and students; including those who are protected by the amended phrase in the nondiscrimination statement.



David Rosen, President



Stephen J. Quezada, Speaker of the Senate
