

Label: SGAR46007

Date Introduced: 2/24/10

Author(s): Michael McHugh

Sponsor(s): Josephine Tittsworth

Committee: Student Life

Draft: Final

RECEIVED MAR 02 2010

Resolution to Applaud UH for Distribution of the “Izza Lopez” Memo to Protect Transgender Students

Whereas, the University of Houston has a duty to protect the rights of all students on campus;

Whereas, it is important to make sure that no student’s future is diminished because they were a victim of unjust prejudice or discrimination; and

Whereas, on January 8, 2010, UH System General Counsel Dona Cornell released the Izza Lopez Memo affirming that gender identity and expression are included under UH’s current nondiscrimination clause, under the category of sex, due to the federal case of *Lopez v. River Oaks Imaging & Diagnostic Group*, 542 F.Supp.2d 653 (S.D. Tex. 2008); and

Whereas, the phrase “Gender Identity and Expression” has still not been added to the UH System Nondiscrimination Clause; and

Whereas, General Counsel Cornell and Provost John Antel have stated that the Izza Lopez Memo ruling should be distributed system wide; and

Whereas, the precedent that this case has stated is an especially significant step in the right direction of justice and equality under the law for transgender students; and

Whereas, General Counsel Cornell and the University of Houston should be recognized for making progress on transgender rights because of their new intent to distribute the Izza Lopez Memo ruling system wide; and

Whereas, While this ruling is not permanent or settled law, and the phrase “gender identity and expression” are still not covered under the UH System Nondiscrimination Policy, the distribution of the Izza Lopez Memo and the clarifications regarding “sex” in University handbooks, marks a significant step forward in promoting equal opportunity for transgender students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 46th Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Section 1: The UH SGA acknowledges University of Houston System administrators for their work in distributing the Izza Lopez Memo ruling. The UH SGA especially thanks General Counsel Dona Cornell for releasing her opinion on protecting the rights of transgender students from this important case.

Section 2: While acknowledging that the issue of gender identity discrimination is still not completely settled, the UH SGA recognizes the significance of the Izza Lopez Memo in

providing protections to transgender students, faculty, and staff as an interim to the inclusion of the phrase “gender identity and expression” in the UH System Nondiscrimination Policy.

Section 3: The UH SGA endorses the recent actions of the UH administration to forward transgender equality at UH.

Passed Unanimously by the Forty-Sixth Senate of the Student Government Association of the
University of Houston on February 24, 2010

Kyrie Ruiz, Speaker of the Senate

Date

Kenneth Fomunung, SGA President

Date