



Student Senate of Stockton University
Resolution SP19-002

Resolution to Reaffirm the University's Commitment to Shared Governance

- Whereas,** the Student Senate is the elected voice of the approximately 9,200 students who attend Stockton University; and,
- Reflecting,** on Stockton University's past forms of both unitary and federated governance, as described by Robert Helsabeck in the University's celebratory publication, *Reaching 40*; and,
- Convinced,** the current system of federated governance using representative bodies has been the most successful in the University's history; and,
- Emphasizing,** the condition Helsabeck states the effectiveness of shared governance ultimately depends on, which is "the good will of the players"; and,
- Aware of,** the drastic changes to new student programming, specifically the cancellation of Stockton's Outdoor Adventure Retreat (SOAR) and TRANSFER-mation, made by the Vice President of Student Affairs Office; and,
- Troubled by,** the decision to make these cuts without seeking student input; and,
- Alarmed by,** the manner in which student questions, concerns, and voices that were raised following the announcement of these cuts, including a student-led petition to reinstate these programs that gathered over 2,000 signatures, were ignored by the administration; and,
- Concerned,** that this decision could set a dangerous precedent of disregarding Stockton's system of shared governance and practice of including students, particularly the Student Senate, in decisions that affect student life at the University; and,
- Questioning,** the future of a cooperative relationship between the Senate and the Stockton administration following an abnormal display of flagrant disrespect for the Senate and its role on Stockton's campus; and,

- Confident,** trust between the student body, the Student Senate, and the Stockton administration can be restored by the administration through demonstrating an unequivocal recommitment to a system of shared governance; and,
- Encouraging,** the Vice President of Student Affairs to release a joint statement with the Student Senate stating this recommitment to shared governance; and,
- Desiring,** a distinct plan to guarantee the inclusion of student input in the creation of new student programming be created by the Vice President of Student Affairs Office in conjunction with the Student Senate;
- Be It Resolved,** the Stockton University Student Senate hereby submits this resolution to Vice President of Student Affairs Catching, President Kesselman, and the Executive Cabinet.
- Calling Upon,** Vice President Catching to address this resolution by April 12, 2019.

Katie Coburn

President of Student Senate

Monica O’Kane

Vice President of Student Senate