

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, TEMPE SENATE
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION 5

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR NATHANIEL ANBAR
THE IRA A FULTON SCHOOLS OF ENGINEERING

CO-SIGNED BY:

CHABAD AT ASU

HILLEL AT ASU STUDENT LEADERSHIP BOARD

JEWISH ARIZONANS ON CAMPUS

STUDENTS SUPPORTING ISRAEL AT ASU

SUN DEVIL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ALPHA EPSILON PI FRATERNITY

ALPHA EPSILON PHI SORORITY

AUTHORIZED BY:

SENATOR JOSEPH PITTS

The W.P. Carey School of Business

SENATOR CAMERON DECKER

Barrett, the Honors College

SENATOR DAIVA SCOVIL

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

*A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM AND CALLING FOR INSTITUTIONAL
REPRESENTATION FOR JEWISH STUDENTS*

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe was created to provide a unified forum for inter-university dialogue, to organize student involvement, and to advocate for and administer services, resources, and programs that benefit the students of Arizona State University.

WHEREAS, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY assumes fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

WHEREAS, Jewish students constitute an important part of the broader ASU community, yet remain distinguishable from the majority by common ethnic and cultural characteristics.¹

NOTING THAT the ASU Jewish community is thus a distinct and significant cultural community within ASU which ASU is charter-bound to support, protect, and defend.

WHEREAS, Jewish students on campus have repeatedly faced antisemitic slanders and hate speech by outside provocateurs² and leaders of official student organizations.³

NOTING THAT, just two weeks ago flyers promoting anti-Jewish conspiracy theories and genocide against Jewish students were placed in prominent locations around campus.⁴

¹ <https://azjewishlife.com/how-can-jews-be-both-an-ethnic-group-and-a-religion/>

² <https://kjzz.org/content/1290006/anti-semitic-swastika-posters-found-asu-tempe-campus>

³ <https://www.statepress.com/article/2019/03/sppolitics-asu-investigates-racist-comments-made-by-college-republicans-united-club-members>
<https://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/leaked-chats-show-alt-right-views-in-asu-republican-group-11252146>

⁴ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/tempe-breaking/2020/08/31/posters-hitler-anti-semitic-comments-found-asu-tempe-campus/3447676001/>

NOTING THAT in the past Jewish students have been placed in on-campus living arrangements alongside individuals who espouse threatening, antisemitic views and that the University has not acted promptly and transparently to resolve these situations.

FURTHER NOTING THAT the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance defines antisemitism as “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”⁵

RECOGNIZING THAT these incidents thus clearly fall into the category of being antisemitic and hurtful to Jewish students.

RECOGNIZING THAT these incidents occur frequently on campus, with several having occurred in the last year alone.

RECOGNIZING THAT this takes place amidst a national context where hate crimes against Jewish individuals and institutions have reached record levels.⁶

WHEREAS the ABOR Student Code of Conduct expressly prohibits “discriminatory activities” and ASU’s Academic Affairs Manual commits ASU to “providing an environment free of discrimination.”⁷

⁵ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>

⁶ <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/anti-semitism/antisemitism-in-the-us>

⁷ <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>

NOTING THAT due to the aforementioned incidents this aspiration is not yet a reality for Jewish students among other minority groups.

WHEREAS the Cultural Coalitions at Arizona State University exist “to promote and represent the voice of various cultures within the university” and act as “umbrella organizations for cultural/ethnic student organizations” related to their specific community.⁸

NOTING THAT Jewish students constitute one of the largest⁹ and most diverse¹⁰ ethnic groups at Arizona State University not currently represented by any Cultural Coalition.

FURTHER NOTING THAT several of the largest Jewish groups at ASU are unable to independently advocate for Jewish students in a political context due to their federal non-profit status.¹¹

RECOGNIZING THAT these groups, in addition to other major campus organizations which advocate for the Jewish community have co-signed this bill in an effort to affirmatively emphasize the need for greater representation of Jewish students at ASU.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe unreservedly condemns all acts of racism, bigotry, and violence against the Jewish community,

⁸ <https://eoss-forms.asu.edu/student-engagement/coalition-info>

⁹ <https://www.hillel.org/college-guide/list/record/arizona-state-university>
<https://datausa.io/profile/university/arizona-state-university-tempe#:~:text=The%20enrolled%20student%20population%20at,Hawaiian%20or%20Other%20Pacific%20Islanders.>

¹⁰ <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/jewish-and/why-diversity-matters-to-the-next-generation-of-jews/>

¹¹ <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/866053859>
<https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/820653779>
<https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/common-501c3-rules-regulations/>

both on and off the Tempe campus. The Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe stands by the Jewish community and condemns all acts of racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination against members of the student body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe calls upon ASU President Michael Crow to release a public statement from the Office of the President condemning the recent antisemitic incidents on campus and reaffirming ASU's commitment to students of all races, colors, creeds, and ethnicities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe calls upon Arizona State University to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism listed above¹² as ASU's official definition of antisemitism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Student Government of Tempe calls upon the Office of Student and Cultural Engagement to work with the Jewish student organizations which have signed this legislation and the Council of Coalitions to establish a formally recognized Jewish Cultural Coalition as part of the Council of Coalitions. USG - T will help facilitate the conversation between Jewish leaders and the Council of Coalitions in order to support this process.

BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to implement the above clauses USG-T President Jacqueline Palmer shall send a copy of this resolution to Dean of Students Cassandra Aska, Director of Student and Cultural Engagement Wadell Blackwell, and ASU President

¹² <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>

Michael Crow. President Palmer shall also send a copy of this resolution to each member of the Council of Coalitions for the purpose of beginning the dialogue mentioned previously.