

1 **Resolution # 1409C**

2 **Resolution in Support of First College Level Competitive Sports Program in**
3 **California for Students with Disabilities**

4
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7 **Drennan (Co-Presidents Disabled Students Union), Ori Herschman (ASUC, Senator) and**
8 **Vinay Ramesh (ASUC, Senator)**

9
10 WHEREAS UC institutionalized the first Disabled Students Program to welcome students
11 with disabilities into higher education, consequently, serving as a model for the
12 world; UC Berkeley's legacy for promoting inclusion attracts students with
13 disabilities from around the world and is a source of campus pride; and
14

15 WHEREAS Our university's Disabled Students' Program (DSP) serves 1,579 students with
16 disabilities. There are another 2,500 (estimated) UCB students with disabilities
17 on campus who are not enrolled in DSP – for a grand total of 4,079 Cal students
18 with disabilities; and
19

20 WHEREAS The UC Berkeley Campus Climate Survey found that 39% of respondents with
21 disabilities felt excluded within the past year;¹ and
22

23 WHEREAS California has an extremely diverse population, with a rapidly increasing
24 population of people of color. Given this, it's important that all UC campuses
25 reflect the diversity of our state. UC needs a President who understands the
26 challenges and benefits of a multicultural State and University system, and is
27 willing to make diversity a top priority; and
28

29 WHEREAS Students with disabilities at UC Berkeley are excluded from competitive college
30 sport opportunities which unfortunately is the norm across the majority of
31 universities nationwide;² and
32

¹ UC Berkeley Campus Climate Survey, Brief Summary Results. Equity & Inclusion Advisory Board. Liz Halimah, Chief of Staff for Equity & Inclusion. 14 May 2014. (Slide 4).

² American Collegiate Society for Adapted Athletics (ACSAA) (2014)





The Graduate Assembly

UC BERKELEY'S GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- 33 WHEREAS UC Berkeley has 580 intramural, 33 club, and 28 varsity sport teams -none are
34 designed for students with disabilities; and
35
- 36 WHEREAS Numerous Cal student athletes represent their countries in the Olympics, while
37 not a single one has represented their country in the Paralympics; and
38
- 39 WHEREAS *the need to develop college sport opportunities for students with disabilities is a*
40 *campus need which reflects a nationwide phenomenon that UC Berkeley can lead*
41 *in solving; and*
42
- 43 WHEREAS The “United States Government Accountability Office report found that students
44 with disabilities participated in athletics at consistently lower rates than students
45 without disabilities”;³ and
46
- 47 WHEREAS The “President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Research Digest reported
48 that physical activity is 4.5 times lower for American children and youth with
49 disabilities than their peers without disabilities”;⁴ and
50
- 51 WHEREAS The lack of physical activity and athletic participation for the population with a
52 disability is directly linked to the lack of opportunity in educational institutions;⁵
53 and
54
- 55 WHEREAS citing the lack of sport opportunities in educational institutions, the Office of Civil
56 Rights (OCR) released a memo last year reinforcing that all educational institutions have a
57 duty to provide and improve access to sport opportunities for students with disabilities; and
58
- 59 WHEREAS there are 4,599 colleges in the United States: 24 offer a sport opportunity (of any
60 kind) for athletes with disabilities;⁶ and
61
- 62 WHEREAS college sport opportunities for athletes with disabilities are absent in 70% of states
63 in the United States;⁷ and

³ Van Rheenen (2014). Unpublished manuscript on sports and inclusion.

⁴ Van Rheenen (2014), Rimmer (2008), U.S. Dept of Education (2011).

⁵ Office of Civil Rights (OCR). Dear Colleague January 25, 2013.

⁶ National Center for Educational Statistics (2014), American Collegiate Society for Adapted Athletics (ACSAA) (2014) & Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA (2014)

⁷ American Collegiate Society for Adapted Athletics (ACSAA) (2014) & Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA (2014)



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65 WHEREAS the NCAA does not recognize student athletes with disabilities; and
66
67 WHEREAS the NCAA has 1,281 member institutions, only 10 colleges provide “unofficial”
68 inter-college competitive sports programs for student athletes with disabilities that mirror the
69 non-disabled NCAA experience: none are located in California; and
70
71 WHEREAS children with disabilities have no available pathway to participate in competitive
72 sports while attending college in California; and
73
74 WHEREAS 60,000 students under the age of 21 are classified as blind nationwide; only 2
75 colleges in the U.S. offer some variation of a sport opportunity for the blind. No scholarships
76 or inter-college competitive opportunities exists in the United States for blind athletes;⁸ and
77
78 WHEREAS 500,000 individuals under the age of 18 have Cerebral Palsy and 40,000 boys and
79 young men have Muscular Dystrophy, of which, both disabilities usually require a power-
80 chair for mobility; only 1 college has an athletic opportunity for power-chair users;⁹ and
81
82 WHEREAS college competitive sport opportunities for athletes with disabilities that mirror the
83 non-disabled NCAA experience are only available in 8 states nationwide; and
84
85 WHEREAS 126,000 full tuition scholarships worth over 2 billion dollars are awarded to
86 NCAA student athletes every year: it is estimate that less than a hundred thousand is awarded
87 to student athletes with disabilities;¹⁰ and
88
89 WHEREAS disability activist and scholars view the struggle to include athletes with
90 disabilities into college sports fully as one that mirrors the Title IX challenge to include
91 women;¹¹ and
92
93 WHEREAS *UC Berkeley in collaboration with several campus partners and philanthropy*
94 *have demonstrated success with innovating pilot-level sport and fitness solutions for the*
95 *disability community; and*

⁸ National Federation for the Blind (2014), Adams, Grigorieff, and Van Rheezen (2014)

⁹ Cerebral Palsy Association (2014), Muscular Dystrophy Association (2014), American Collegiate Society for Adapted Athletics (ACSAA) (2014)

¹⁰ Figure roughly estimated by the known 10 competitive disabled sports program (ACSAA, 2014), of which, the majority are partial scholarship.

¹¹ Greenlee, Graig (2013). <http://diverseeducation.com/article/61242/>



96
97 WHEREAS with support from the Robert and Colleen Haas Scholars Program, students from
98 the Disabled Students Union at Cal were able to research best practices and advocate for UC
99 Berkeley to improve access to fitness and sport programs for the disability community; and
100
101 WHEREAS with support from an Innovation Grant from the Office of Equity & Inclusion, UC
102 Berkeley was able to substantially improve fitness services and explore developing inclusive
103 sport opportunities for the disability community; and
104
105 WHEREAS with support from the American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) program,
106 UC Berkeley created the first pilot academic course that teaches blind and non-blind students
107 how to play the game of goalball (similar to soccer, yet designed for the visually impaired)
108 while learning about the intersection of sports and disability studies; and
109
110 WHEREAS with support from the Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund, UC Berkeley in
111 partnership with the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP) are developing a
112 pilot competitive goalball and powerchair soccer team for students and community members
113 with disabilities; and
114
115 WHEREAS with support from the Office of Public Affairs, the aforementioned pilot programs
116 have illuminated UC Berkeley into the television spot light with ABC Local News, Comcast
117 Sports Network, PAC 12 Network, CBS National News, International Sky News Network,
118 and in print with a front page article in the San Francisco Chronicle article; and
119
120 WHEREAS with support from the Graduate School of Education's Cultural Studies of Sport in
121 Education (C.S.S.E.) concentration, the department has prioritized scholarly research and
122 developing tangible sport opportunities for individuals with disabilities at Cal to serve as a
123 national example of athletic inclusion; and
124
125 WHEREAS the overall need to develop inclusive college sport opportunities is paramount:
126 56.7 million people have a disability in the United States (19% of the population).¹² 2.3
127 million college students nationwide have a disability (11% of all students).¹³ 4,079 students
128 with disabilities attend UC Berkeley -all of which- could substantially improve their health,
129 inclusion, and general well-being through access to sports; therefore be it
130

¹² 2010 U.S. Census

¹³ The American Council on Education (ACE) Freshman Survey





- 131 RESOLVED the Graduate Assembly is advocating for UC Berkeley to increase sport
132 opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and be it further
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- 134 RESOLVED the Graduate Assembly is advocating for UC Berkeley to develop a long term
135 vision to become the first college in California to offer a competitive sports program with varsity
136 privileges for students with disabilities; and be it further
137
- 138 RESOLVED the Graduate Assembly is encouraging the Chancellor in breaking down the
139 NCAA barrier by prioritize the inclusion of athletes with disabilities into the future direction of
140 the Cal Athletics; and be it further
141
- 142 RESOLVED the Graduate Assembly is encouraging the Chancellor to become an advocate on
143 the national stage for leading the NCAA to a more fair and inclusive model; and be it further
144
- 145 RESOLVED the Graduate Assembly President will write letter to the Chancellor requesting a
146 meeting with student leaders to allow them to advocate on the need; and be it further
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- 148 RESOLVED the Graduate Assembly will arrange a meeting with administrative stakeholders to
149 raise awareness with including: Chris Treadwell (Assistant Chancellor), Dan Moguluf (Public
150 Affairs / Communications), Michael Williams (Interim A.D.), Claude Steele (Executive VC &
151 Provost), Scott Bidy (VC Relations), and Gibor Basri (VC Equity & Inclusion), Bob Lalanee
152 (VC Real Estate), Paul Hippolitus (DSP Director), and Derek Van Rheenen (Director, Graduate
153 School of Education Cultural Studies of Sport in Education program); and be it
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- 155 RESOLVED if approved by the Graduate Assembly this resolution will be forwarded as an
156 identical Senate Bill to the ASUC for approval with the terms "Graduate Assembly" in the
157 resolved section being supplanted by "ASUC."

