

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

**Bill Number:** Senate Resolution #2021-14  
**Title:** Defund University Police Department and Redistribute Funds to Mental Health Services  
**Sponsored by:** Vice President Maythe Alderete Gonzalez Senators-at-Large Sumaiyah Hossain and Jesus Gonzalez  
**Co-Sponsored by:** Students for Quality Education (SQE) members America Lopez, Chloe Ricks, Sierra Santa Olaya, La F.U.E.R.Z.A Student Association Director De Conciencia y Comunidad and SQE member Randall Santiago, Chief Diversity Officer Citlalli Ortiz, and Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Affairs Caleb Aparicio  
**Date Submitted:** April 12, 2021  
**Date Approved:** April 28, 2021

**WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and

**WHEREAS** that ASI's mission is to "improve the quality of campus life for students while enhancing their educational experience;"<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that the CSULB ASI Board of Directors 2020-21 Senate Policy Agenda states that ASI will "advocate for efficient student health resources," such as mental health resources, and other basic needs resources;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that President Conoley has clearly outlined the university's mission to support students through better mental health services, stating that CSULB recognizes the "essential role of health and wellness promotion in ensuring academic and life success" and is "working hard to address the current college mental-health crisis" in order to take a "more active, holistic, and multidisciplinary approach to supporting the physical and mental health of [CSULB] students;"<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that considering the University and ASI's mission seeks to help improve students mental health services, it is imperative that proactive steps are taken to address the lack of mental health resources and counselors; and

**WHEREAS** that mental health problems affect academic performance, retention, and graduation rates, especially for students who do not receive support; and

**WHEREAS** that policing within institutions has historically been used as a colonial tool of oppression and criminalization, specifically targeting Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color; and

**WHEREAS** that over the past decade police officers have continue to murder 1,000 people per year, mostly unarmed Black and Latinx people, and Black folks make up 23 percent of

<sup>1</sup><https://www.asicsulb.org/corporate/resources/about-us#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20ASI%20is,at%20the%20time%20of%20registration>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.asicsulb.org/gov/documents/senate/resolutions/2020-2021/SR-2021-03-Senate-Policy-Agenda.pdf>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.csulb.edu/office-of-the-president/article/week-of-wellness>

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those fatally shot and killed by the police despite being just 13 percent of the U.S. population;<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that defunding is the process of reducing police department budgets in order to redistribute those funds into essential services, such as mental health, and ultimately abolish said police department in favor of “community-based models of safety, support and prevention;”<sup>5</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that “such new possibilities would include rewarding jobs, critical education, decent housing, accessible health care, recreation, and art for all. It also demands that we conduct ourselves on our campuses... and communities worthy of racial, gender, and economic equality...;”<sup>6</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that police officers have historically been the enforcers of racist and discriminatory laws and that the first form of policing in the United States, known as slave patrols, dates back to the 1700s;<sup>7</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that the police continue to militarize themselves while disproportionately arresting, abusing, and killing communities of color, especially Black folks in the U.S.;<sup>8</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that campus policing can be traced back to Yale University in the late 1800s,<sup>9</sup> and later, in the 1960s, most college and university security departments became law enforcement agencies as a result of the Kent State University shooting that took place as a direct response to student antiwar demonstrations surrounding the Vietnam War;<sup>10</sup> and

**WHEREAS** that university campuses became a center of resistance and student organizing and a place where campus police terrorized Black, Indigenous, and people of color as well as leftist student groups; and

**WHEREAS** that campus police that carry firearms pose an increased possibility for harm, as “research shows that policies that force colleges to allow guns on campuses are likely to lead to more shootings, homicides, and suicides, and that they’re unlikely to prevent mass shootings on campus;”<sup>11</sup> and

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/protests-spread-over-police-shootings-police-promised-reforms-every-year-they-still-shoot-nearly-1000-people/2020/06/08/5c204f0c-a67c-11ea-b473-04905b1af82b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/protests-spread-over-police-shootings-police-promised-reforms-every-year-they-still-shoot-nearly-1000-people/2020/06/08/5c204f0c-a67c-11ea-b473-04905b1af82b_story.html)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article248636275.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://level.medium.com/why-arguments-against-abolition-inevitably-fail-991342b8d042>

<sup>7</sup> <https://time.com/4779112/police-history-origins/> <https://lawenforcementmuseum.org/2019/07/10/slave-patrols-an-early-form-of-american-policing/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.pogo.org/analysis/2020/06/poisoning-our-police-how-the-militarization-mindset-threatens-constitutional-rights-and-public-safety/#:~:text=The%20result%20of%20militarization%E2%80%94where,less%20safe%20and%20less%20free.&text=The%20militarization%20of%20day%20to,an%20the%20communities%20they%20serve.>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.asanet.org/news-events/footnotes/jul-aug-2020/features/race-violence-justice-and-campus-police>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.kent.edu/may-4-historical-accuracy>

<sup>11</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/report/guns-on-campus/>

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- WHEREAS** that the CSULB University Police Department (UPD) has served the campus and surrounding community as a certified law enforcement agency since January 1974;<sup>12</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that CSULB has historically funded the UPD while disregarding funding for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and mental health services; and
- WHEREAS** that structural racism has affected the health of people of color, especially Black and Indigenous people in the U.S., and there is a need for accessible services that addresses and heals the intergenerational & ongoing traumas of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color; and
- WHEREAS** that students are frequently placed on waiting lists due to high demand for services and lack of mental health staff;<sup>13</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that the recommended student to counselor ratio from the International Accreditation of Counseling Services (IACS) is 1 counselor to every 1,000-1,500 students;<sup>14</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that Senate Bill 660 aligns with the recommendations by the IACS, which states that “on or before January 1, 2021, and every 3 years thereafter, to report to the Legislature how funding was spent and the number of mental health counselors employed on each of its campuses, as specified;<sup>15</sup>” and
- WHEREAS** that CSULB’s counselor to student ratio in 2014 was 1:3, 287 students, however according to the IACS data, CSULB should have 33-40 mental health counselors to reach the ratio necessary to serve the student population; and
- WHEREAS** that according to the California Faculty Association (CFA) report on Counseling in the CSU “only four of the 23 CSU campuses meet the standard ratio of students per counselor;”<sup>16</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that according to the Division of Administration and Finance, UPD has a \$3,795,696 budget, while CAPS has a \$1,395,371 budget;<sup>17</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that CSULB currently has 12 licensed psychologists, three clinical counselors, and one licensed psychiatrist, totaling to only 16 mental health professionals,<sup>18</sup> which is not an appropriate ratio of professionals to students; and

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.csulb.edu/academic-senate/csulb-police-community-action-group>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.ncd.gov/sites/default/files/NCD\\_Mental\\_Health\\_Report\\_508\\_0.pdf](https://www.ncd.gov/sites/default/files/NCD_Mental_Health_Report_508_0.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://iacsinc.org/staff-to-student-ratios/>

<sup>15</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200SB660](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB660)

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.calfac.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/counseling\\_in\\_the\\_csu\\_handout\\_final.pdf](https://www.calfac.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/counseling_in_the_csu_handout_final.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> [https://daf.csulb.edu/offices/univ\\_svcs/budget/docs/fy19-20/internal\\_budget/daf.html](https://daf.csulb.edu/offices/univ_svcs/budget/docs/fy19-20/internal_budget/daf.html)

<sup>18</sup> [http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/caps/contact/faculty\\_staff.htm](http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/caps/contact/faculty_staff.htm)

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- WHEREAS** that the American College Health Association conducted a survey and found that students who reported psychological distress also reported receiving lower grades on exams or projects, receiving lower grades in courses, receiving incomplete, or dropped courses, experiencing significant disruptions in thesis, dissertation, research, or practicum work;<sup>7</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that the CSU and CAPS response protocol when student conduct is disruptive is to call UPD or LBPd, which has shown the potential to escalate mental health situations into critical and even deadly responses;<sup>19</sup> and
- WHEREAS** that other CSU and UC Associated Students bodies, including San Francisco State University,<sup>20</sup> California State University, Fullerton,<sup>21</sup> California State University, San Marcos, California State University Northridge, and University of California, San Francisco have called on their universities to defund their university police departments; and
- WHEREAS** that CSULB should be participating along with other CSU's to be one of the first higher educational institutions within the United States to lead the efforts to defund and abolish the police on campuses; and
- WHEREAS** that CFA has called for defunding of UPDs throughout California;<sup>22</sup> now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the ASI Board of Directors strongly urges CSULB to be transparent about the budgeting of student resources so that all records online reflect internal records and that this should be done by fall 2021; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the ASI Board of Directors strongly urges CSULB to defund the UPD and stop the hiring of new police officers on campus; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB will disarm UPD police officers to prevent unforeseen harm among the student and campus population;<sup>23</sup> and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB will fund mental health services and hire the necessary and recommended amount of counselors to improve CAPS availability for students; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB will hire full time counselors who represent the diverse student demographics; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the ASI Board of Directors encourages the development of a liaison between the Ethnic Studies Department and CAPS to ensure students of color, specifically Black &

<sup>19</sup> <https://calstate.edu/red-folder/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://asi.sfsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SJEC-PASSED-Stance-on-SF-State-UPD-1.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p5c5qX293ZN0kAwc6dZ8wBAOJgVezmFPVIZld81N\\_rU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p5c5qX293ZN0kAwc6dZ8wBAOJgVezmFPVIZld81N_rU/edit)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.calpac.org/headline/cfa-says-defund-racist-and-abusive-police-departments-invest-resources-people>

<sup>23</sup> <https://level.medium.com/why-arguments-against-abolition-inevitably-fail-991342b8d042>

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Indigenous students, are given access to counseling to heal from intergenerational & ongoing trauma; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that structural racism at all levels of CSULB be dismantled, starting with institutions regarding the public safety and health of our students, such as UPD and CAPS; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Office of Multicultural Affairs Director and the Vice President for Student Affairs will work with student leaders to ensure these initiatives are seen and heard by the University; and be it finally

**RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro, all 23 CSU's Associated Students, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach City Council Members, CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President for Student Affairs Beth Lesen, Provost Brian Jersky, Dean of Students Piya Bose, Academic Senate, University Police Department, the Division of Student Affairs staff, all current and future ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Media.

Maythe Alderete Gonzalez  
Maythe Alderete Gonzalez, Vice President &  
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

5/10/2021  
Date

Omar Prudencio Gonzalez  
Omar Prudencio Gonzalez, Associated Students President

5/10/2021  
Date

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