

Adopted: May 7, 2019

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA
AS-875-19
RESOLUTION ON THE CAMPUS CHICK-FIL-A**

- 1 WHEREAS, Chick-Fil-A and its Foundation have a history of donations to anti-LGBTQ organizations; and
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3 WHEREAS, These donations represent direct evidence of a worldview highly inconsistent with our values of
4 diversity and inclusivity at Cal Poly; and
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6 WHEREAS, The presence of Chick-Fil-A on campus negatively impacts campus climate for many students,
7 faculty, and staff; and therefore be it
8
9 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate urges Cal Poly and Cal Poly Corporation to sever ties with Chick-
10 Fil-A and terminate the contract with the on-campus franchise; and be it further
11
12 RESOLVED: Cal Poly and Cal Poly Corporation be mindful of the practices and donation patterns of its
13 business partners and that said partners are held to the same high diversity and inclusion
14 standards of as the rest of the campus community.

Proposed by: Thomas Gutierrez, Academic Senate Vice
Chair

Date: April 23, 2019

Abstract

This resolution expresses concern regarding our University's business relationship with Chick-Fil-A and urges Cal Poly to sever ties with the company. The company, through its foundation and charitable arms, has a long, public history of donating to causes that actively and unapologetically oppose the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) individuals.

The company was thrust into the national spotlight in 2012 because of both the vocal intolerant public statements made by the company's leadership and the patterns of corporate donations made by the company's charitable foundations. Although there were quiescent public relations periods since then, donations to such organizations has quietly continued at least through 2017. Recently, in late 2018 and early 2019, Chick-Fil-A again made the national news. They have been barred from two airports, in Buffalo, NY and San Antonio, TX, because of their position on LGBTQ+ rights. The legal process is ongoing in those cases. Rider University in New Jersey declined to consider putting a location on campus because of the company's donation record through 2017.

Chick-Fil-A has been doing business on the Cal Poly campus since the mid-1990s. Currently, we own the franchise though the Cal Poly Corporation. A new, five-year contract was just signed last year (2018) to continue this business relationship. It is only one of two Chick-Fil-As on the Central Coast. Cal Poly is only one of two universities in California that serve Chick-Fil-A on campus (the other is California Baptist University in Riverside) and the only CSU (no campus in the UC system serves it). Chick-Fil-A's brand is, at least locally, closely linked to Cal Poly's brand. Convenient fast food options on campus, which are naturally popular amongst busy students on the go, is very limited. However, in seeking innovative solutions to this situation, one might ask: with Cal Poly's deep knowledge in agriculture, food sciences, health, business operations and marketing, does it even need a fast-food franchise to provide good, over-the-counter meals for its students?

Attached are further references to set the context for the resolution.

News Articles

"Chick-Fil-A donated to anti-LGBTQ group that bars employees from 'homosexual acts'," Thinkprogress, March 20, 2019,

<https://thinkprogress.org/chick-fil-a-anti-lgbtq-donations-tax-filings-62ca15281f17/>

"Yes, Chick-fil-A's Foundation Still Donates to Anti-LGBTQ Causes," Eater Magazine, March 20, 2019,

<https://www.eater.com/2019/3/20/18274090/chick-fil-a-anti-lgbtq-donations-fellowship-of-christian-athletes>

Supplemental Materials for the Resolution on the Campus Chick-Fil-A

“Chick-fil-A barred on college campus due to LGBTQ stance,” CBS News, November 26, 2018,
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/chick-fil-a-barred-on-college-campus-due-to-lgbtq-stance/>

“Chick-fil-A banned from San Antonio airport over 'legacy of anti-LGBTQ behavior',” Fox7 KTVU Austin, TX, March 22, 2019, <http://www.fox7austin.com/news/texas/chick-fil-a-banned-from-san-antonio-airport-over-legacy-of-anti-lgbtq-behavior->

“Chick-fil-A barred from Texas airport due to "anti-LGBTQ behavior’,” March 22, 2019,
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/chick-fil-a-barred-from-texas-airport-due-to-what-critics-call-anti-lgbtq-behavior/>

“Chick-fil-A barred from second airport after anti-LGBTQ donations,” CBS News, April 5, 2019,
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/chick-fil-a-barred-from-a-second-airport-after-anti-lgbtq-donations/>

“Chick-fil-A banned from second airport in less than 2 weeks,” Fox2 KTVU, April 1, 2019,
http://www.ktvu.com/news/chick-fil-a-banned-from-second-airport-in-less-than-2-weeks?fbclid=IwAR1oTnX_gSzGkPT_LZ5dc8G5GiBcX0kh3mF7lo5TUvnyr2ROukGpyp0E1Mc

“Chick-fil-A Dropped From Second Airport Over Support for Anti-LGBTQ Groups,” Eater Magazine, April 2, 2019,
<https://www.eater.com/2019/4/2/18292030/chick-fil-a-buffalo-airport-anti-lgbtq>

“Pro-LGBTQ-rights consumers vow to boycott Chick-fil-A after it announces its opening in Toronto — here's why the fast-food chain is so controversial,” Business Insider, July 27, 2018,
<https://www.businessinsider.com/chick-fil-a-lgbt-twitter-jack-dorsey-apology-marriage-equality-2018-6>

“San Jose to hang rainbow flags at airport Chick-fil-A in support of LGBTQ rights,” NBC News, August 1, 2018,
<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/san-jose-hang-rainbow-flags-near-airport-chick-fil-support-n993426>

Donation Patterns

Recent donations:

- Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which openly regards homosexuality as an “impure lifestyle.”

Supplemental Materials for the Resolution on the Campus Chick-Fil-A

- Paul Anderson Youth Home: Paul Anderson Youth Home, a “Christian residential home for trouble youth,” teaches boys that homosexuality is wrong.
- Salvation Army, which has a long record of opposing legal protections for LGBTQ Americans.

Past donations have included:

- The Marriage and Family Foundation, an organization devoted to upholding traditional marriage.
- Exodus International, which claims to “cure homosexuality” through psychological coercion of LGBTQ people. It says LGBTQ people are “perverse.”
- Focus on the Family (FOF) and its offshoot group, Family Research Council (FRC), which has been designated as a hate group by Southern Poverty Law Center. FOF aggressively defames LGBTQ people as a threat to children.

Other References

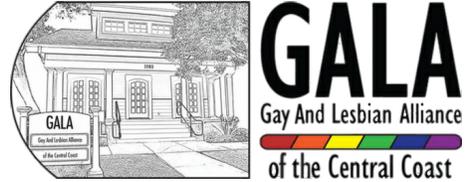
2017 Tax returns for Chick-Fil-A Foundation:

<https://www.scribd.com/document/402397177/Chick-Fil-A-Foundation-2017>

AB-1887:

<https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/ab1887/ab-1887-text.pdf>

This is the 2016 California State Assembly Bill that imposes travel bans on certain states due to their position on LGBTQ rights. However, other elements of the bill state, Gov. Code, § 11139.8, subd. (a)(5): “California must take action to avoid supporting or financing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.” A Chick-Fil-A franchise on campus may put Cal Poly in a position where we are misaligned with the core principles of AB-1887.



4/22/19

To: Cal Poly Community

Re: Chick-fil-A Operations on Cal Poly Campus

As community partners, we recognize Cal Poly's efforts to create a more diverse and inclusive campus. We acknowledge the effort of the Cross Cultural Centers to further LGBTQ+ initiatives at Cal Poly and the diverse speakers and consultants brought in to speak on topics of race and religion. GALA and other local non-profit organizations are members of the Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) working to prevent gender based violence, and we interact with students as interns in our programs, as they seek our services, and in other ways.

We believe Cal Poly needs to consider its vendors as part of the promise of inclusion. Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy's hostile view toward marriage equality is well known and the National LGBTQ+ task force is concerned about workplace protections for LGBTQ+ employees as they have heard firsthand about homophobia at Chick-fil-A locations.

Chick-fil-A has donated millions of dollars to anti-LGBTQ+ hate groups over the years, particularly in trying to prevent same sex marriage. While there was some talk of the company moving away from discriminatory stances, as recently as 2017 the Chick-fil-A Foundation donated more than \$1.8 million to groups with a history of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes which requires its members to refrain from "homosexual acts" and the Paul Anderson Youth Home, which has characterized homosexuality as evil.

We believe continuing to contract with Chick-fil-A sends a contradictory message about where Cal Poly stands with regard to diversity and inclusion, and we urge President Armstrong to reconsider whether it is in the best interest of students and greater community.

We understand this may be framed as a free speech issue. Chick-fil-A's President may have a right to homophobic speech, but that speech is contrary to the values Cal Poly espouses. The 1st Amendment does not require the patronage of Cal Poly faculty, students, and staff. We strongly urge you to reconsider allowing Chick-fil-A to continue operations on campus.

Sincerely

Gay and Lesbian Alliance of the Central Coast (GALA)
Tranz Central Coast (TCC)
The Queer Crowd, SLO Queerdos
Your True Gender, The Central Coast Coalition for Inclusive Schools
Diversity Coalition of San Luis Obispo County
5 Cities Hope



CAL POLY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Senate
FROM: College of Liberal Arts,
Chairs Council
SUBJECT: Academic Senate Resolution

DATE: May 7, 2019

On May 7, 2019, the chairs of the College of Liberal Arts, in their Chairs Council meeting, voted unanimously to support the proposed Academic Senate Resolution "Resolution on the Campus Chick-Fil-A." Due to a pattern of donations to anti-LGBTQ organizations, the resolution recommends

- That the Academic Senate urges Cal Poly and Cal Poly Corporation to sever ties with Chick-Fil-A and terminate the contract with the on-campus franchise; and be it further [that]
- Cal Poly and Cal Poly Corporation be mindful of the practices and donation patterns of its business partners and that said partners are held to the same high diversity and inclusion standards of as the rest of the campus community.

Cal Poly's diversity statement reads, "Cal Poly is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community and building a supportive and respectful campus where a wide variety of social identities, perspectives and viewpoints are welcome and where all students and employees know they belong." We find that this partnership with Chick-Fil-A conflicts with this statement and the many messages (e.g., Inclusion Starts with Me) and activities (e.g., CPX Initiative) that Cal Poly has embraced as ways to help create a more inclusive campus climate. Just as we do not condone sexual harassment from "independent contractors, vendors and other who do business with the University or on University premises," we should not support campus business partners that support discrimination against LGBTQ individuals and groups.