

Version: SECOND READING

Resolution 36

**A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROVIDE NORTH CAROLINA
STATE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR NC STATE STUDENTS
SUFFERING FROM OR AFFECTED BY GLOBAL CONFLICTS**

Short Title: Institutional Support for Students Affected by Global Conflict Act

Sponsors: Senator Taquan Dewberry (Corresponding)

Secondary Sponsors:

Signatories:

Referred to: Student Affairs

First Reading: August 21, 2024

Second Reading: September 4, 2024

WHEREAS, North Carolina State University is an expansive institution with a diverse campus community hailing from all over the world, aspiring to achieve a strong and impactful education among a community of fellow dedicated students and leaders; and,

WHEREAS, one of the prides of NC State is its inclusive community that invites all members of the student body and campus community to be one with the larger wolfpack, providing a strong sense of belonging that has proven to be conducive to academic and social success; and,

WHEREAS, various conflicts occurring on campus, domestically, or abroad can impede a student's sense of belonging or cohesion within the Wolfpack, sometimes causing members of our wolfpack community to feel isolated or alone in their struggles; and,

WHEREAS, in the past, members of the wolfpack community have expressed their frustration with an apparent lack of an official NC State University response to their situation or the conflicts affecting them; and,

WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina Regulation 300.8.5, Equality Within the University of North Carolina, in adherence to NC G.S. 116-300, dictates that the entire University of North Carolina, of which NC State is a constituent institution, must remain neutral as an institution on the political controversies of the day; and,

WHEREAS, after dutiful research and extensive clarification by the UNC System Office and System Leadership, it has been made clear that students, outside of student trustees and governors acting in their official capacities, are not beholden to this regulation and may speak freely on behalf of themselves as students and individuals; and,

Version: SECOND READING

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State University Student Government was designed and is dedicated to advocating on behalf of the NC State Student Body, representing them and presenting our collective concerns to NC State University Administration, campus partners, and leaders; and,

WHEREAS, there are currently conflicts occurring around the world that have demonstrated to have an effect on members of the wolfpack community as they try to matriculate and actively participate in their collegiate experience; and,

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State University Student Government recognizes and acknowledges that there are several global conflicts taking place that have significantly negatively affected or provided a potential detriment to members of the campus community, others they care about, or people they may know; and,

WHEREAS, it can be extremely difficult to cope or deal with social, political, emotional, or conflict-ridden situations and feeling as if one is not entirely supported by their institution of education; and,

WHEREAS, several news networks that have kept up with reporting the latest data and statistics on the war occurring in Israel and Gaza, reported that as of 3 pm on August 19th, 2024, the total number of casualties begot by the conflict nearly 42,000, with 40,774 of the deaths being Palestinian and 1,139 being within Israel; and additionally, a study by the medical journal Lancet has estimated the indirect and direct deaths associated with the conflict in Gaza to be 186,000

WHEREAS, the current iteration of calamitous conflict taking place in Gaza has, on both sides of the war, claimed thousands of civilian lives, injured over 100,000, displaced even more, and is still currently progressing; and,

WHEREAS, in April 2023, a violent conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan, resulting in the displacement of more than 10 million people, including but not limited to internally displaced people, asylum seekers, and refugees; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations has declared the civil war in Sudan a humanitarian crisis; being declared the largest displacement crisis in the world with over 12 million people displaced, the crisis has also claimed nearly 15,000 lives, prohibiting access to education for around 19 million children, caused more than 755,000 Sudanians to live on the brink of famine; and,

WHEREAS, on February 24th, 2022, the Russian military invaded Ukraine, resulting in a war that has since claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in a still ongoing conflict; and,

Version: SECOND READING

WHEREAS, in Haiti, there is an ongoing humanitarian crisis which, according to the World Food Program USA, has produced one of the highest levels of hunger in the world; and,

WHEREAS, the political violence in Haiti has displaced hundreds of thousands of people since its most recent outbreak, causing turmoil and distress among the civilian populations within the country; and,

WHEREAS, on July 15th, 2024, students of Dhaka University in Bangladesh were violently attacked for protesting a quota for government jobs sparking a series of attacks against student protestors; and,

WHEREAS, mass attacks against civilians by armed groups and the Congolese security forces have caused thousands of deaths and displaced millions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and,

WHEREAS, there are a plethora of other wars, conflicts, and humanitarian crises in countries all across the world, each negatively affecting at least some civilian populations; and,

WHEREAS, the NC State student body and campus have come from all across the world, including some of the aforementioned affected countries and regions, to join the wolfpack and pursue education, job opportunities, a strong community, and more; and,

WHEREAS, several conversations were consistently held over the summer between the corresponding senator of this resolution, Taquan Dewberry, and a variety of university administrators and campus partners regarding providing Institutional Support to the campus population affected by global conflict; and,

WHEREAS, these various independent conversations led to a centralized meeting discussing a developed institutional support plan for the aforementioned campus populations; and,

WHEREAS, the extremely productive conversation was attended and participated in by Student Senate President Pro Tempore Taquan Dewberry, Student Body President Allison Markert, Associate Vice Chancellor of the Division of Academic and Student Affairs Donna McGalliard, Vice Provost for Global Engagement Dr. Amy Conger, Vice Provost of the Office of Equal Opportunity, Chair of the Faculty Senate Herle McGowan, Chair of the Staff Senate Charles Hall, Chair-Elect of the Staff Senate Jameco McKenzie, Graduate Student Association President Summia Rahman, and Director of Student Leadership and Engagement Michele Kurtz; and,

WHEREAS, out of this conversation were born further efforts towards the enactment of the aforementioned institutional support plan, a plan which aims to strengthen the

Version: SECOND READING

wolfpack's resolve and sense of inclusivity and belonging for all of its members; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government recognizes and acknowledges that members of the wolfpack community are hurting and some suffering as a result of the various conflicts taking place around the world, both domestically and abroad; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NC State Student Government staunchly affirms itself as an open and safe space for the student body to come and voice their concerns and opinions, working to promote and highlight the value in every single student voice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NC State Student Government hereby asserts that it stands by our student body in their time of hurt and need, serving as not only a voice and vessel through which the ideas, expressions, and concerns of the students can be heard but also a body of consolation and compassion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government proceed, through continued work and collaboration with campus partners and university administrators, with the implementation of the institutional support plan for our students affected by global conflicts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this implementation include, but shall not be limited to, fostering inclusive support networks across campus, providing comprehensive resources and support mechanisms such as Developing and hosting educational workshops and seminars led by potential faculty and student experts on the matters, curating programs offering spaces on campus for ongoing dialogue and connections, establishing a task force to oversee and sustain these initiatives, ensuring continuous improvement and engagement, and using the aforementioned website to centralize information, updates, and resources, and providing training on effective communication strategies regarding sensitive issues., enhancing communication and educational initiatives regarding the various aforementioned global issues and effective methods of communication about said topics, such as; and be it further

RESOLVED, in the course of establishing and working to maintain a continual working group of people to help with the implementation of this plan, the North Carolina State University Student Government send Student Body President Allison Markert and Student Senate President Pro Tempore Taquan Dewberry as continual representatives to collaborate with the group and communicate a Student Government perspective in the work that is being done; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the corresponding senator of this resolution work with relevant student government officials & leadership and student organization leadership on further description and definition of the support plan, including the development of a

Version: SECOND READING

course of action to ensure effective implementation of the support plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to North Carolina State University Faculty Senate, North Carolina State University Staff Senate, and relevant Student Government bodies; and be it further

RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective upon its enrollment.

SOURCES:

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- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/07/what-is-happening-at-the-quota-reform-protests-in-bangladesh/>

