

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT QUEER STUDENTS AND ADDRESS UGS FUNDING
DECISION
ASSU-F2022-11

AUTHOR: Undergraduate Senate

SPONSOR: Jas Espinosa, ASSU Financial Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: Thursday December 1st, 2022

ACTION REQUESTED: 2/3 vote of the Undergraduate Senate

FINAL STATUS: 13-0-0

CONTENT WARNING: this resolution mentions transphobia, misogynoir, violence, and suicide.

WHEREAS the UGS is aware that Matt Walsh will be coming to campus on March 2nd to speak at an event hosted by the VSO Stanford College Republicans (SCR);

WHEREAS Matt Walsh has created a children's book and documentary that invalidate trans identities and continues to spread harmful messages putting trans and queer people at risk;

WHEREAS 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth¹– and these realities have directly touched the Stanford community;

WHEREAS at least 57 transgender or gender non-conforming people, mostly Black and Latinx transgender women, were fatally shot or killed by other violent means in 2021;²

WHEREAS violence against queer and trans folk continues to be a reality in this country, with the shooting at Club Q in Colorado that killed five individuals and injured 17 falling on the eve of Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) this year;³

WHEREAS the protection of marginalized communities is a priority of the 24th Undergraduate Senate;

WHEREAS the UGS has been in contact with student and faculty leaders in Queer Student Resources (QSR) and the Women's Community Center to decide the best course of action to support queer students on campus in light of this event;

WHEREAS the UGS donated \$1000 of our discretionary funding towards the Trans Day of Remembrance Event held by QSR on November 17th, 2022;

WHEREAS SCR submitted a funding application for a Standard Grant and the UGS Appropriations Committee sent the grant for approval to this Legislative Body on November 29th, 2022;

¹<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>

²<https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-community-in-2021>

³ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/number-injured-club-q-shooting-revised-upward-rcna59100>

WHEREAS Stanford’s Office of Special Events & Protocol only allows for VSOs to “offset up to 50 percent of the event cost through *off-campus fundraising*, provided such efforts are consistent with university policy and done with prior university approval;”⁴

WHEREAS the ASSU is a primary funding source on campus, continuously forcing our body to tackle funding requests that harm the community;

WHEREAS previous denials of SCR grants have resulted in harm towards members of the Undergraduate Senate, such as hateful messages and large media attention aimed at intimidating and harassing Senators;

WHEREAS denials of funding also lead to Constitutional Council cases by which contingency fees take money from the Senate’s discretionary fund that could otherwise be used to empower counter protests and support for the community;

WHEREAS denials of grants based in the content of speakers could lead to immense legal consequences, risking the ASSU’s standing as an organization;

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

THAT the Undergraduate Senate ultimately approved the grant out of fiduciary responsibility;

THAT the Undergraduate Senate does not stand for transphobic, homophobic, or any form of anti-queer or gender marginalized discrimination on our campus;

THAT the Undergraduate Senate firmly opposes Matt Walsh and believes that his presence will create an unsafe environment on campus;

THAT the Undergraduate Senate endorses counter protest efforts that support trans and queer students and will actively work to support planned events in support of the queer community on campus during this event;

THAT the Undergraduate Senate will work to advocate for and create a system with various University offices in which the ASSU is not forced to fund such hateful and harmful speakers;

THAT the Undergraduate Senate pledges to reserve an additional \$1,000 of our discretionary funding alongside with Stanford Student Enterprises’ pledge of \$2000 in support of counter programming in partnership with QSR and the WCC in accordance with ASSU funding guidelines.

⁴ <https://osep.stanford.edu/policies/events-requiring-security-or-extraordinary-resources>