SENATE BILL No. GS10-11

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recommending to the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents that “personal expression of sexualities” be added to the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents Equal Opportunities Statement and other university policy statements of nondiscrimination; providing definition of terms; directing distribution; and providing effective date.

Terms defined:

Personal expression of sexualities incorporates the full range of human sexual experience. It includes: biological sex (including male, female, and intersex persons based upon their genetic, anatomical, and hormonal expressions); the spectrum of sexual orientation (the romantic and erotic attraction experienced by individuals, from heterosexual, to bisexual, to asexual, to homosexual, and the various degrees of each in between); the dynamic and personal experience and awareness of each individual’s gender identity (the psychological sense of self from woman to man, including two spirit or third gender identities); the unfolding process of each individual’s self-realization and acceptance of their own psycho-sexual person and its manifestation to their self and to others as gender expression (from femininity to androgyny to masculinity, and all degrees across this spectrum); and the individual and personal choices (that are safe, sane, and exclusively between consenting adults) of both frequency of sexual interaction and choice of partners and the number of partners, including from chastity and abstinence, to monogamy and non-monogamy.

Whereas: Human sexuality is a dynamic and fluid experience within each individual and society; and,

Whereas: Terms such as sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression frequently assume rigid and fixed dichotomous positions rather than the full spectrum of individual experience in any given moment as well as across time; and,

Whereas: The transitional period of university life is normally the first time where individuals have the legal and social legitimacy to explore their own sexualities; and,

Whereas: Discrimination and prejudice against people based on their actual or perceived personal expression of sexualities detrimentally affects their psychological, physical, social, and economic well-being;¹ and,

Whereas: The issue of nondiscrimination with regard to personal expression of sexualities is becoming an increasingly important issue within our society and within the campus community; and,*

Whereas: There is a compelling need for, at minimum, the inclusion of language regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in the nondiscrimination clause at the University of Oklahoma because: (1) there is a substantial number of individuals on campus so situated as to be discriminated against on these grounds, and (2) there is a long standing pattern of discrimination in both colleges and universities and in the environing society; and,*

Whereas: The call for inclusion of this language is an effort to secure equal rights for all persons, regardless of their personal expression of sexualities, not a movement to secure special rights for any individual group; and,*

Whereas: Many prominent colleges and universities throughout the United States have included some combination of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in their nondiscrimination statements—including Yale University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, American University, Emory University, the University of Chicago, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Brown University, and Brandeis University; and,*

Whereas: Many other colleges and universities who are considered peer institutions, in terms of mission and region, have also included some combination of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in their nondiscrimination statements—including Oklahoma State University, Arizona State University, Colorado State University, the University of California System, the University of New Mexico, Ohio State University, and Pennsylvania State University; and,*

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma has a duty and ethical obligation to provide a safe learning environment and to protect all students and employees from discrimination; and,*

Whereas: The inclusion of personal expression of sexualities in nondiscrimination statements will provide clear direction to members of the administration, faculty, staff, and students: and,*

Whereas: UOSA is committed to representing the needs and concerns of all students at the University of Oklahoma in the formulation of university policy and the fulfillment of the University's mission; and,*

Whereas: In the spring semester of 2009, the question of including “sexual orientation” in the nondiscrimination clause was passed by a vast majority of OU students; and,*

Whereas: The Graduate Student Senate and Undergraduate Student Congress each passed two similar resolutions in the spring and fall sessions of 1994 encouraging the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents to include sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination policy;2 and,

Whereas: This resolution represents a long-standing continuity of ideology and solidarity among students of the University of Oklahoma who have recognized the need for formal inclusion of this type of language in the University’s nondiscrimination policy; and,

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2 See UOSA Senate Bill No.: GF94-8 and Congressional Bill No.: 520504.
*These clauses were either incorporated verbatim or adapted into this current resolution from Congressional Bill 820912, authored by Sen. Nicholas Harrison and Reps. Isaac Freeman, Jason Robinson, and Shayna Daitch, September 2009.

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Whereas: This resolution seeks to address all areas of potential discrimination or prejudice based upon individual perceptions and expressions of sexualities, which is in keeping with basic principles of equity and justice sought through previous resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT ASSOCIATION GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE:

Section 1: The UOSA Graduate Student Senate wishes to recommend that the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents adopt the following policy and that all relevant nondiscrimination clauses under the auspices of university policies and procedures be amended to include “personal expression of sexualities”, and that the preceding definition of this phrase be included where appropriate:

This institution is in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, personal expression of sexualities, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admission, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Section 2: Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to:
The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents
Mr. David L. Boren, President of the University of Oklahoma
Mr. Clarke Stroud, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students of the University of Oklahoma
The Oklahoma Daily
The Norman Transcript
The Daily Oklahoman
The University of Oklahoma chapter of GLBTF

Section 3: This act shall become effective when passed in accordance with UOSA Constitution.

Author: Senator Derrell Cox II, Secretary, Graduate Student Senate, Department of Anthropology

Co-Sponsors: Representative Brett Stidham, Chair, UOSA Budget Committee, Business District
The Executive Committee of the Graduate Student Senate
The Human Diversity Committee of the Graduate Student Senate

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Congress:

Verified by Chair: _____________________________ Date: ______________

Submitted on a Motion by:

Action taken by Senate:

Verified by Chair: _____________________________ Date: ______________

Approved by UOSA President: _____________________________ Date: ______________