



Student Government Association

To the Student Government Association Senate and the greater Chapman community:

I have always placed the utmost importance in doing what is right. Since I was elected into this position, it has been my number one priority to serve every student on our campus. Every student deserves the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns, no matter the issue.

I have decided to veto the resolution passed in Senate on May 8, 2017 entitled *Chapman University Student Government Association Resolution to Condemn Campus anti-Semitism*. I am a proud Jewish student who condemns anti-Semitism vehemently—it is crucial that every student on our campus can walk freely, feeling safe, secure, and welcome. I want to be clear that this veto has little to do with the content of this resolution, and is more focused on the process by which this resolution came about. Anti-Semitic incidents have been on the rise across our nation, and students' fears are valid and heard.

The Student Government Association's main duty is to listen to all students. Our students shape our ideas and goals, and give us inspiration to do the work we set out to do every single day. Our student body is the reason we are in these offices. Below are the key reasons I have decided to veto this resolution:

-This resolution was passed at the final Senate meeting of the semester, which took place at 10:00PM. This meeting was not sufficiently publicized and did not adequately give students the opportunity to come into our meeting, share their feedback, and weigh in on the ultimate decision. The large majority of students on our campus had no knowledge of what was coming before their elected officials.

-The Student Government Association takes every student's concerns seriously. It is important that any piece of legislation is given fair consideration among all of our constituents. This resolution was a rushed piece of legislation; the members of SGA did not adequately reach out to the greater student body or student organizations, thus giving students no outlet to express their opinions, whether positive or negative. Student Government Association elected officials must do their due diligence by talking to hundreds, if not thousands, of students before making any sort of decision.

-More students from every area of campus should be involved in large conversations like this, and that is where this organization has lacked in the past. I want to see engaging discussions taking place, whether facilitated by SGA or not, to inform the student body and their Senators on what their opinions are. I want students to be engaged and *want* to contribute to the conversation before any item is passed. Unfortunately, this was not the case this time around.

-This past Friday, a roundtable was held to welcome differing opinions on the issue. Many students attended and shared their support or concerns for the resolution. To my delight, the students who crafted the resolution agreed, after speaking with other students that had concerns, that edits could be made to the bill to be more inclusive to other students who had differing opinions on language and no prior knowledge of this resolution. Both sides stated that they are

willing to sit down, work together, and make edits. In order to make any edits or have any further discussions on this specific resolution, it must be vetoed.

-The main goal of a resolution is to get the University as a whole to adopt it. Since we did not garner student support before passing this resolution, there is a very slim chance the University would even consider adopting it. The University looks to us to prove that student support exists, but if we do not obtain that, there is little chance further action will be taken. I am confident a bill just like this one will come back up for discussion in the Fall, and we will work hard to assess student support, giving it a much greater chance of being adopted at a University level.

I want what is best for this University. I encourage students to begin talking about this resolution, sending in their feedback, and being a part of the discussion. I would love to see a form of this bill enacted in the Fall and I plan to hold several roundtable discussions with students from all areas, organizations, and groups on campus to garner their feedback. SGA has more they can do to make every student feel heard and represented, and I hope that this veto proves that I am working to put SGA on just that path. I fully support the condemnation of anti-Semitism; I want to make sure we pass a bill that students understand and support, and can help create a culture change on our campus.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns; I am more than open to speaking with any individual student or organization and will seriously take their feedback into consideration. I also encourage students to reach out to any of our Senators, whose information can be found on our website: www.chapman.edu/SGA. If there is anything you would like to discuss, please email me at SGAPresident@chapman.edu or call me at 714-744-7006.

Sincerely,

Mitchell S Rosenberg

Mitchell Rosenberg

President

Chapman University Student Government Association

Dated: May 15, 2017