BOD 2020-21 – 9R
Resolution Demanding a Review of the Chair of the Economics Department

WHEREAS, Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) is the recognized voice of approximately 14,000 students; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the ASI Board of Directors to advocate and provide responsible and effective leadership for a diverse student population in order to make sound decisions for the betterment of CSUEB students; and

WHEREAS, the ASI’s Policy Agenda of 2020-2021, Initiative #2 Social Justice and Equity, commits to “providing support for historically underrepresented students: Undocumented/DACA students, mixed status family based students, and Black students in order to promote safety and inclusivity;” and

WHEREAS, ASI’s Official Statement Denouncing Racial Injustice in America states that “ASI is committed to becoming stronger allies and fighting for social justice;” and

WHEREAS, CSUEB’s Shared Strategic Commitments includes being dedicated to “enhance our inclusive campus, responding to the backgrounds and interests of our diverse community and promoting their academic, professional and personal development;” and

WHEREAS, the values of the College of Business and Economics (CBE) include: “Ethical behavior and personal integrity,” “Corporate, social, and environmental responsibility,” and “Inclusive learning environment for a diverse student population, including underserved and first-generation students;” and

1 California State University, East Bay Associated Students, Incorporated. Policy Agenda 2020-2021.
WHEREAS, according to EastBay Today, “Cal State East Bay is once more topping national ranking lists for its diverse student population. Not only has U.S. News & World Report ranked the university the most diverse college campus in the West, Cal State East Bay also received the highest diversity score of any university in the country;”⁵ and

WHEREAS, EastBay Today has reported CSUEB being “recognized for championing diversity and inclusion. For the sixth consecutive year, the university has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award from “INSIGHT Into Diversity” magazine;”⁶ and

WHEREAS, EastBay Today reported in Awards and Recognitions 2020⁷ that CSUEB received the following awards and recognitions:

- U.S. News & World Report - 2021 Greatest Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the West (No. 1)
- Wall Street Journal - 2020 Environment/Diversity (No. 5); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory B. Christainsen is a Professor Emeritus in the CSUEB Economics Department whose research and professional activities have led the CSUEB Academic Senate to censure him for “engaging in fundamentally racist scholarly activity (i.e., “race realism”) in his capacity as a Cal State East Bay Professor that brings into disrepute the reputation of his department, college and our university; which is inconsistent with our stated values as enshrined in our University mission and institutional learning outcomes, particularly our commitment to graduate students capable of “applying knowledge of diversity and multicultural competencies to promote equity and social justice in our communities”; and which is incompatible with the role of faculty in institutions of higher education”;⁸ and

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⁸ California State University, East Bay Academic Senate. 20-21 FUFM 2 Resolution of Censure of Prof. Gregory Christainsen, Emeritus Professor, Department of Economics, California State University East Bay. Retrieved from: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-ecOFTRSoH9X2hyylc2sRJ516_3y-SYh81Pktus-uaw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-ecOFTRSoH9X2hyylc2sRJ516_3y-SYh81Pktus-uaw/edit?usp=sharing)
WHEREAS, a Change.org petition was started by students titled Petition Against Tenured Racist Faculty/Lecturers and contained the following demands:

- “We call upon the CSUEB to strip Gregory Christainsen of his title of Professor Emeritus.
- We call for the CSUEB College of Business and Economics (CBE) intensively review its funding allocations to revert funding away from sponsoring controversial journal publications; and instead allocate that funding towards supporting CBE students including, but not limited to, more student scholarships, financial support and funding for CBE student organizations/clubs.
- We call for additional policies to stop such institutionalized prejudice in tenured/untenured faculty/staff and for tenure to not be an obstacle in faculty/staff removal when it comes to racist behavior.
- We call for CSUEB to finally implement more student resource centers geared towards ethnic support for minorities: Black Student Resource Center and Undocumented/DACA Resource Center.
- And lastly, we call for CSUEB to implement comprehensive diversity and inclusion training for all CSUEB staff and faculty;” and

WHEREAS, Professor Christainsen’s publications and public statements have been the focus of recent news coverage due to public comments at the October 29, 2020 CSU Board of Trustees meeting; and

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WHEREAS, the Pioneer published two articles following the issue: *University Professor has extensive publishing record in racist Eugenics theory*\(^{13}\) and *Calling For an End to Racist Pseudoscience: An Interdisciplinary Critique of Eugenics and Intelligence Testing*;\(^{14}\) and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer published another article regarding the Economics department *Professors not immune to gender inequality*\(^ {15}\) that alleges that Economics Chair Jed DeVaro engaged in discriminatory and hostile behavior with respect to the handling of Professor Jung You’s tenured appointment and promotion process; and

WHEREAS, a letter from the Stupski Foundation, a major donor to CSUEB, was sent to the ASI President/CEO Euridice Pamela Sanchez-Martinez on November 19\(^ {16}\) (ATTACHMENT I) calling for, among other things, the revocation of Professor Christainsen’s emeritus status and for the CSUEB College of Business and Economics to intensively review its funding allocations to revert funding away from sponsoring controversial journal publications; and instead allocate that funding towards supporting CBE students including, but not limited to, more student scholarships, financial support and funding for CBE student organizations/clubs; and

WHEREAS, a letter signed by over 80 CSUEB faculty and Department Chairs\(^ {17}\) (ATTACHMENT II) was submitted to Provost Inch on December 2 requesting that Professor De Varo not be reappointed to the position of Chair of the Department of Economics based on their opinion that he has failed to fulfill his duties as Chair and he has contributed to creating an inequitable and exclusionary departmental and campus environment; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, ASI will persist in holding faculty members accountable for such behavior; and

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\(^ {17}\) Letter from CSUEB faculty re. Econ Department. Retrieved from: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TSyj8bEdqdTN4Vp-z-M-Uiv1wX6jMNdituyfGQIIYV/edit?usp=sharing
RESOLVED, ASI will hold the University accountable for taking the necessary steps to restore public trust in our institution; and

RESOLVED, ASI supports 20-21 FUFM 2 Resolution of Censure of Prof. Gregory Christainsen, Emeritus Professor, Department of Economics, California State University East Bay; and

RESOLVED, ASI demands that the University shall conduct a thorough review of the College of Business and Economics and the Economics department; and

RESOLVED, this thorough review shall consist of:

- An examination of Professor Jed DeVaro’s position and qualification to serve as the Chair of the Economics department to determine if it was in compliance with university policies on Chair appointment and review
- An examination of Professor Gregory B. Christainsen’s teaching record to determine whether student complaints were received concerning his apparent inclusion of his “race realism” research results and opinions in courses for which they would not be relevant or in a manner that was considered biased or harmful by students, and how such evaluation comments or complaints were handled by the Economics Chair and College Dean
- An examination of how Professor Christainsen’s research record and teaching of “race realism” in the classroom could have remained unknown to the University community until coming to light during discussions related to Black Lives Matter in the spring/summer of 2020, one that determines if and how this research was reviewed and supported by the College of Business Economics and specifically:
  - Were these publications submitted for consideration as part of Professor Christainsen’s post-tenure reviews?
  - Were they subject to any financial support or release time for Professor Christainsen to conduct the research by the department or college?
  - Did the publications count towards any credit given to the department or college in seeking accreditation? If the alleged discrimination and hostile behavior of Professor De Varo to Professor You took place as reported by the Pioneer and
was subject to a successful grievance or appeal process, why Professor De Varo was allowed to continue in his position as Economics Chair?

○ If the nature of the research conducted by Professor Christainsen and his use of the “race realism” material in unrelated economics classes was known to the College Dean or Economics Chair, why is/was Professor Christainsen permitted to continue to teach and to take part in departmental and college retention, tenure and promotion committees and in faculty searches?

RESOLVED, the University will provide ASI with a complete report on the findings of its review and will also share this with the Academic Senate and, after conducting the review, the University will report back to the ASI and to the Academic Senate on the actions taken as a result of its findings; and

RESOLVED, the College of Business and Economics will intensively review its funding allocations, as asked by the Stupski Foundation, to revert funding away from sponsoring controversial journal publications; and instead allocate that funding towards supporting CBE students including, but not limited to, more student scholarships, financial support and funding for CBE student organizations/clubs; and

RESOLVED, ASI strongly encourages our University President to revoke Professor Gregory B. Christainsen’s Emeritus status on the grounds that he has inflicted harm to the University’s students, faculty, and staff, has brought our University’s reputation into dispute, and thus should not be allowed to associate himself with the University in any official capacity in the future; and let it be therefore

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed to our University President, Vice President for Student Affairs, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Associate Vice President of Human Resources & Payroll Services, University Diversity Officer, Academic Senate, Coordinator for the Diversity and Inclusion Student Center, CSUEB Students for Quality Education, the Pioneer, Cal State Student Association, digitally to all students, and any other relevant parties.

Authored by: Kabir Dhillon, Chair of the Board of Directors
Jose Simon Carmona, Senator of Diversity

Approved On: Wednesday, January 27, 2021

ASI President/CEO does hereby [ ] approves / [ ] refuses to approve this resolution.

Euridice Pamela Sanchez
ASI President/CEO

Kabir Dhillon
ASI Chair of the Board of Directors

Jose Simon Carmona
ASI Senator of Diversity

Approved by: ASI Board of Directors 2020-2021
November 19, 2020

Dear President Leroy Morishita, Incoming President Cathy Sandeen, Provost Edward Inch, University Diversity Officer Kimberly Baker-Flowers, Academic Senate Chair Michael Lee, Academic Senate Vice Chair Ryan Henyford, Academic Senate Secretary Michelle Rippy, and Associated Students Inc. President Eurdice Sanchez-Martinez,

For the past four years, the Stupski Foundation has been proud to partner with California State University, East Bay’s (CSUEB) talented staff and faculty on initiatives they have pioneered to address critical issues of inequity in student outcomes. Like CSUEB, the Stupski team and I believe in serving students first and making the college experience more inclusive, diverse, and equitable, especially for students of color, immigrants, and first-generation college-goers. As one of the most diverse campuses in the nation, CSUEB models what we hope student bodies will look like across the communities we call home in the Bay Area and Hawai’i—places where talented young people from communities historically underrepresented in college admissions receive the support to achieve their academic and professional goals and become the future leaders of our region and the world.

Most importantly, we align closely with CSUEB’s commitment to be actively anti-racist. To do that, we—like CSUEB’s Office of Diversity—believe that we must be advocates, allies, and accomplices in calls for racial justice. That is why the Stupski team and I have and are expressing deep concerns about CSUEB’s hesitancy to act on recent revelations concerning Professor Emeritus Gregory Christainsen’s research and instruction of “race realism” at CSUEB.

As CSUEB students explain in their petition against tenured racist faculty, Christainsen has enjoyed university-backed funding and a position of power at CSUEB to promote the widely discredited, unscientific, and racially biased concept of eugenics for over a decade. As a professor emeritus, he continues to teach management and economic courses that shape students’ understanding of the world and, more importantly, of their place in it. Citing several of his publications in their petition, CSUEB students reveal that his published writings falsely claim that African and Hispanic people have smaller brain volumes and perform inferior to Whites on IQ tests, that African children’s mental abilities are ‘genetically impaired,’ and that White genes have a ‘positive’ effect on cognitive ability for mixed-race people. Not only do Christainsen’s claims breach the scope of his academic domain, they conflict with basic research and data analysis principles that CSUEB students are taught in their first-year curriculum to follow. By continuing to uphold policies that protect and provide a platform for Christainsen and others who promote racially biased ideologies, we believe you are enabling them to position racism as research.

Students, faculty, and staff are calling on you, as the leaders of the university, to end institutionalized racism at CSUEB. That starts with the revocation of Christainsen’s emeritus status, but it does not end there. Stupski Foundation stands with students, faculty, and staff and calls for immediate action. We also call on you to commit to long-term policy and structural
changes that will prevent similar situations from harming students and undermining CSUEB’s mission.

As CSUEB’s University Officer Kimberly Baker-Flowers wrote this summer, “CSUEB is our community, our own locus of control and we can commit to ensuring that our community is one that aspires to be anti-racist and one that operates out of the theory of social justice.” At Stupski, we are on our own racial equity journey and realize that becoming anti-racist is an ongoing pursuit, not a destination. That is why we decided to contact you directly about this issue. We call on you as CSUEB’s leading decision-makers to heed student calls outlined in the Change.org petition and copied below.

- We call upon the CSUEB to strip Gregory Christainsen of his title of Professor Emeritus.
- We call for the CSUEB College of Business and Economics (CBE) intensively review its funding allocations to revert funding away from sponsoring controversial journal publications; and instead allocate that funding towards supporting CBE students including, but not limited to, more student scholarships, financial support and funding for CBE student organizations/clubs.
- We call for additional policies to stop such institutionalized prejudice in tenured/untenured faculty/staff and for tenure to not be an obstacle in faculty/staff removal when it comes to racist behavior.
- We call for CSUEB to finally implement more student resource centers geared towards ethnic support for minorities: Black Student Resource Center and Undocumented/DACA Resource Center.
- And lastly, we call for CSUEB to implement comprehensive diversity and inclusion training for all CSUEB staff and faculty.

As long-term CSUEB partners, we believe in the university’s potential to have an outsized positive impact on young people’s lives. You have the ability to take meaningful action within your locus of control. In standing with your students, you will set an example of allyship and anti-racism not only for the CSU system but for the larger public education system across the nation. We believe and urge you to pioneer an anti-racist path forward for the university by centering the voices and heeding the calls of the students of color who are most impacted. We are committed to embarking on this learning journey with you and our other partners to center racial equity in our work together.
We welcome the opportunity to continue discussing and learning from your ongoing efforts to dismantle institutional racism at CSUEB. As part of that, we hope to foster ongoing conversations about our work together on the Pioneer Pathways initiative that seeks to address structural challenges that impede student success. We look forward to hearing from you about how you are taking action and working with students, staff, and faculty to address this matter.

In solidarity with CSUEB students,

Jennifer Nguyen on behalf of the Stupski Foundation
Director of Postsecondary Success
jennifer@stupski.org
ATTACHMENT II
Letter from CSUEB faculty re. Econ Department

Dear Provost Inch,

As faculty at Cal State East Bay, we implore you to recommend against reappointing Professor Jed DeVaro as Department Chair of Economics. The university has made campus climate a top priority as evidenced by the Campus Climate Assessment. Supporting that priority is the recent chairs’ position description circulated by the Office of Academic Affairs, which states that Department Chairs are responsible for “creating a departmental climate that is equitable and inclusive.” However, the available evidence and recent experiences of Professor DeVaro’s actions manifestly contravene these values.

We are particularly concerned about the following issues:

1. Professor DeVaro’s support of Professor Gregory Christainsen’s research and teaching that prominently feature racist themes in conflict with campus ILOs, thus endangering CSUEB’s WASC certification, and doing damage to our mission and standing as a public university;

2. Professor DeVaro’s use of sexist language and hiring practices, which expose the campus to Title IX lawsuits, run contrary to our ILOs, and expose members of our community—especially students, staff, and faculty who are women, non-binary, and/or people of color—to potential harm;

3. The rule violations Professor DeVaro have committed, particularly in conducting the department RTP process, which opens the university up to lawsuits; and

4. Professor DeVaro is a regular member of the Management Department not a regular member of the Economics Department and is therefore ineligible to serve as Chair of the Department of Economics.
For these reasons, we feel that Professor DeVaro has failed to fulfill his duties as Department Chair. He has contributed to an inequitable and exclusionary departmental and campus environment, and should not be reappointed as Chair of the Economics Department.

Sincerely,

Duke Austin, Chair of Sociology  
Nicholas L. Baham III, Professor of Ethnic Studies  
Luz Calvo, Chair of Ethnic Studies  
Christina Chin-Newman, Professor, Human Development & Women’s Studies  
Kristen Gustavson, Assistant Professor, Social Work  
Bridget Ford, Chair of History  
Eric Kupers, Chair of Theatre and Dance  
Dave Larson, Chair of AGES  
Keri O’Neal, Chair of Human Development and Women’s Studies  
Maria Ortuoste, Chair of Political Science  
Arun Rasiah, Director of Liberal Studies  
Mary Cardaras, Chair of Communication  
Sarah Taylor, Chair of Social Work  
Shubha Kashinath, Chair of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences  
Pascale Guiton, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences  
Christian Roessler, Associate Professor, Economics  
Jung S. You, Associate Professor, Economics  
Nicole Sumner, Teacher Education Department  
Eileen Barrett, Professor Emerita, English  
Danvy Le, Assistant Professor, Political Science  
Susi Ferrarello, Assistant Professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies Department  
Holly Vugia, Professor, Social Work  
Meaghan McCollow, Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology  
Jenny Hazlehurst, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences  
Stephanie Seitz, Associate Professor, Management  
Ana Almeida, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences  
Nina Haft, Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance
Natalie Ingraham, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Jessica Santone, Assistant Professor, Art
Linda Smetana, Professor, Educational Psychology
Carlos Salomon, Professor, Ethnic Studies
Enrique Salmon, Professor, Ethnic Studies
Albert Gonzalez, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Geography, and Env. Studies
Nazzy Pakpour, Assistant Professor, Biology
Eve Higby, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Alexei Angelides, Adjunct Professor, Philosophy & Religious Studies
Rita Liberti, Professor, Kinesiology
Mariana T. Guzzardo, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Women’s Studies
Kathryn Hayes, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership
Ian Pollock, Associate Professor, Art
Sharon Radcliff, Librarian, University Libraries
Eric Haas, Professor, Department of Educational Leadership; Director of the
Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership for Social Justice
Lynn Comerford, Professor, Human Development & Women’s Studies
Ann Fajilan, Professor, Theatre & Dance
Lisa Booker, Administration and Finance
Arnab Mukherjea, Associate Professor, Health Sciences
Michael Stanton, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
Kim Geron, Professor Emeritus, Political Science
Linda Ivey, Professor, History
Kevin Kaatz, Associate Professor, History
Elizabeth McGuire, Assistant Professor, History
Eric Engdahl, Chair of Teacher Education
Patricia Drew, Professor, Human Development and Women’s Studies
Ardella Dailey, Chair Educational Leadership
Marya Wright, Lecturer, Sociology
Jean Lin, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Mike Regan Jr., Lecturer, Sociology and Kinesiology
Anna Alexander, Associate Professor, History
Becky Beal, Professor, Kinesiology
E. Missy Wright, Kinesiology, Co-Director of the Center for Sport and Social Justice
Deena Lin, Lecturer, Philosophy and Religious Studies
Alina Engelman, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
Juleen Lam, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
Shannon Coskran, Lecturer, General Studies
Amara Miller, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Caron Inouye, Director, GE; Chair, General Studies; Professor, Biological Sciences
Grant Kien, Professor, Communication
Dianne Rush Woods, Professor Emerita, Social Work
Megan Cherewick, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
Claire Valderama-Wallace, Assistant Professor, Nursing
Estalynn Kenyon, Lecturer, Sociology (Alumni)
Lana Wood, Senior Assistant Librarian, University Libraries
Ellen Bernstein-Ellis, Director Aphasia Treatment Program, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Andrew Carlos, Associate Librarian, University Libraries
Daisy Muralles, Senior Assistant Librarian, University Libraries
Diana K. Wakimoto, Librarian, University Libraries
Lee Adams, Senior Assistant Librarian, University Libraries
Julie A. Beck, Associate Professor of Sociology
Buddy James, Chair of Music
Gilberto Arriaza, Professor, Education Leadership Dept.
Kathryn Strom, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership
Oanh Tran, Professor, Educational Psychology
Monique Manopoulos, Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures
Vanessa Yingling, Associate Professor, Kinesiology
Nidhi Khosla, Associate Professor, Health Sciences
Scott Hopkins, Professor Art Department
Negin Toosi, Assistant Professor, Psychology
Murray Horne, Associate Professor, Psychology
Kristin Layous, Assistant Professor, Psychology
Amanda Morrison, Assistant Professor, Psychology

Copy: President Morishita, Dr. Cathy A. Sandeen