

**BOD 2024-25 - 1R**

**Resolution on Supporting Women's Water Polo at CSUEB**

**WHEREAS**, Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) is the recognized voice of approximately 12,500 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 to make sound decisions for the betterment of CSUEB students; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State University East Bay Athletic Department, Pioneer Athletics, strives to fulfill the educational mission of the university while providing unique opportunities for personal growth and success outside of the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, Women's Water Polo at CSUEB has significantly enriched the community through notable contributions, including a remarkable 14-5 victory that propelled them to the Western Water Polo Association (WWPA) semifinals in Spring 2024; and<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Women's Water Polo at CSUEB is not a NCAA DII-sponsored sport, and only 10 Division 2 institutions nationally sponsor the sport;

**WHEREAS**, Director of Athletics Allison Kern has announced the discontinuation of Women's Water Polo to compensate for enrollment shortfalls at CSUEB, along with a press release on May 8 at 12:30pm; and<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Water Polo Head Coach, Lisa Cooper, returning Water Polo students, and the CSUEB Student Athlete Advisory Committee were not informed and consulted prior to the announcement in May; and

---

<sup>1</sup><https://eastbaypioneers.com/news/2024/4/26/womens-water-polo-pioneer-water-polo-advances-to-wwpa-semifinals-after-14-5-win-on-friday.aspx>

<sup>2</sup><https://eastbaypioneers.com/news/2024/5/8/water-polo-cal-state-east-bay-announces-discontinuation-of-womens-water-polo-sponsorship.aspx>



**WHEREAS**, CSUEB Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) consists of two representatives from each of the university's 15 intercollegiate sports with a mission to promote communication between athletics administration and student-athletes, disseminate information to athletes, promote athletic events on campus, and provides feedback and insight into athletics department issues to generate a student-athlete voice within the campus and the athletics department's formulation of policies; and<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Women's Water Polo have publicly addressed their concerns about the discontinuance of their program and have released a petition to reinstate Women's Water Polo; and<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the decision of Women's Water Polo was made during finals week which caused added stress for the Water Polo players; and

**WHEREAS**, Athletes from the Water Polo team knew that their scholarship commitment would be honored through graduation if they decide to stay enrolled at Cal State East Bay, but were given no other guidance on their status as athletes; be it

**RESOLVED**, ASI urges the University Administration and Director of Athletics to reconsider their decision to discontinue the Water Polo team and explore other opportunities of supporting Women's Water Polo financially; and let it be further

**RESOLVED**, ASI implores University Administration includes coaches, students athletes, and advisors in decisions that remove athletic programs; and let it be further

**RESOLVED**, Administration does not make any major announcements that affect student programs during times when students are highly academically-focused; and let it be further

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://eastbaypioneers.com/sports/2017/11/4/saac.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSclvml3frIrlqjaTsEI6zNbsTAww7JwifAVBYWjhRry3psOwA/viewform>



**RESOLVED**, Athletics invites SAAC on future discussions that involve cuts to other athletic programs, budget reallocations, and future directions related meetings of Cal State East Bay Pioneers; and let it be therefore

**RESOLVED**, CSUEB Athletic Department provides a budget breakdown to the CSUEB community as to what led them to discontinuing Women’s Water Polo; and let it be further

**RESOLVED**, CSUEB Athletic Department opens a listening session to the public addressing additional questions the community may have about the discontinuance of Women’s Water Polo; and let it be further

**RESOLVED**, CSUEB follows up with their commitment to consult with all returning Water Polo players about their future at CSUEB and provides support for opportunities if they would like to continue water polo at another institution, and

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be distributed to our University President Cathy Sandeen, University Chief of Staff Derek Aitken, Vice President for Student Affairs Suzanne Espinoza, the Pioneer, digitally to all the international students, and any other relevant parties.

Authored by: Nolan Calara, ASI President/Chair  
Erick Macias, ASI Executive Vice President  
Kelekolio Mateo Jr., SAAC President

Approved On: June 26, 2024

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


  
Nolan Calara (Jun 27, 2024 15:15 PDT)

Nolan Calara  
ASI President/CEO

  
-- ASIExecVP (Jun 27, 2024 15:10 PDT)

Erick Macias  
ASI Executive Vice President



  
Kelekolio Mateo (Jul 1, 2024 14:15 PDT)

Kelekolio Mateo Jr.  
*SAAC President*

Approved by: ASI Board of Directors 2024-2025

