

**Georgia Southern University Student Government Association**  
**S. Resolution 5**

Authors: KeyShawn Housey, At- Large  
Student Representatives: Ashton Johnson, President of NAACP; Peter Egede, President of  
NPHC

---

**RESOLUTION**

The Georgia Southern University Student Government Association supports the implementation of an ethnicity and diversity training curriculum and providing students and staff the platform to speak their grievances regarding race, diversity and inclusion.

---

**Definition**

1. Diversity
  - a. As outlined within the Code of Conduct:* There is currently no working definition of diversity within the Student Code of Conduct
  - b. As outlined in the dictionary:* the inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization
2. Inclusion
  - a. As outlined within the Code of Conduct:* There is currently no working definition of diversity within the Student Code of Conduct
  - b. As outlined in the dictionary:* The action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure.

**Section 1: Summary**

With the current university climate and the cultural disconnect that our university has encountered with increasing vitriol throughout the years, it is imperative that Georgia Southern University students have a solidified source of training related to diversity and inclusion, in the form of an approved and uniform curriculum. It is also imperative that the administration of Georgia Southern University continues listening to the concerns of their students and meeting their concerns with credible and timely responses.

**Whereas** There is a lack of civil discourse about race, diversity, and inclusion due to a fear of backlash among faculty, staff, and students on this campus.

**Whereas** There are racial and cultural tensions within the student population of Georgia Southern University.

**Whereas** These tensions were recently displayed on the Statesboro campus with the “Triggerish” incident during the summer of 2018.

**Whereas** Tensions were displayed again on the Armstrong campus in 2017 where racist graffiti was discovered in a women’s bathroom.

**Whereas** Tensions culminated to a rally held by the Georgia Southern Chapter of the NAACP in 2015.

**Whereas** The Georgia Southern University Student Code of Conduct Section B2 states, “Be fair and courteous with others, treat them fairly and with respect, showing sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity and personal dignity.” Furthermore, Subsection 15 states, “Speech or other expression (words, pictures, symbols) that constitutes fighting words and is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere, limit, or deny one’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program.”

**Whereas** An excerpt from the Georgia Southern Mission states, “The University creates vibrant learning environments that foster an inclusive, student centered culture of engagement.”

**Whereas** There is currently no working definition for diversity within the Student Code of Conduct.

**Whereas** There is currently no working definition for inclusion within the Student Code of Conduct.

**Whereas** The current curriculum in place is not conducive for promoting diversity among the student population.

**Whereas** The Post Consolidation Georgia Southern University is home to 27,459 students 10,720 students identify as non-white campus wide as of Fall 2017;

**Whereas** This would articulate an actionable approach to the previously passed **S. Resolution 3**

**Whereas** The curriculum training students to meet this need exists in the format of **LEAD 3900**

***Therefore let it be resolved*** That Student Government Association of Georgia Southern University:

1. Works to constantly promote a more diverse university system through education and training within the Student Government Association by subjecting the Senate body to a diversity curriculum, as outlined below:
  - a. Conversations within the SGA office
  - b. Presentations at Senate retreats and conventions
  - c. Partnership with different organizations and departments on campus that sufficiently promote diversity and inclusion.
  - d. One Senator from each college is required to complete the training curriculum of the Peer Diversity Educators through the Office of Multicultural Affairs.
2. Senate is mandated to outline an intention action plan related to improving diversity on campus, per administration.
  - a. A detailed description of the actions that the administration intend on taking to help shape diversity and inclusion within the student population.
  - b. One event that will promote a more inclusive university.
3. Provide updates on what has been done in the name of promoting diversity and inclusion.
  - a. To be presented to the senate by the Executive Vice President
  - b. Updates to be provided on a bi-annual basis.
4. Calls for the integration of **LEAD 3900** and relevant diversity programs into the common core curriculum of students starting Fall 2019.
5. Calls for the collaboration between the Presidential Diversity Advisory Council, President's Cabinet, and SGA in constructing a comprehensive, annual report on the racial climate of the university within every sector of the university.
6. Shall submit a copy of this resolution to the Georgia Southern University administration, file it with the official records of the organization, and publish it to the website indefinitely.

## **Section 2: Statement of Need**

As an institution of higher learning, we have an obligation to our students to educate them inside and outside the classroom. Without the mandate that students enroll in and successfully complete a course similar to **LEAD 3900**, there is no objective indicator that students will be provided education in the form of diversity and inclusion training.

This is important because this is applicable training that is universal. The skills that this class provides are universal and can help determine the character of the student rather than contribute to the scholastic content. Many overlook the need to develop the cultural awareness of students, but looking at the diversity of the workforce as well as the diversity of our university, it is counterproductive to let students ignore the truth that is diversity.

Looking at functions that our departments serve, there is a diverse set of needs that are satisfied ranging from experiential learning to alternative break trips. Other departments at

Georgia Southern boast their ability to provide an education that transcends the classroom. While it is no doubt that Georgia Southern makes some effort to provide these opportunities (that range from being within the community, pursuing talents with organizations, and working on skills that include but are not limited to leadership, resume building, networking and much more) this resolution contends that this type of training would be beneficial in today's political and societal climate.

Furthermore, it is important that at every sector of the university, faculty, staff, and students are involved in evaluating the societal and racial climate of the university. This would be done by speaking out, directing one's complaints through the necessary channels such as SGA, Faculty Senate, etc. S.Resolution 3 served to be a major turning point in dealing with diversity and inclusion on this campus, and with the consolidation in full effect, the climate on campus calls for more attention to the complaints of faculty and staff. It is expected that work of diversity consultant Dr. Damon Williams will yield valuable insight into the racial climate of Georgia Southern. However, one must look towards the future, beyond the services of Dr. Williams in how this university will effectively transform concerns into action. As such, one should find the necessity of a report applicable to the nature of progress in relations university-wide.

**\*Example of how the formal resolution will be submitted for the record with the information from supporters\*\***

**Author:**

---

KeyShawn Housey, Senator At-Large

**Co-Sponsors:**

---

Kahria Hadley, COB Senator

**Individual Supporters:**

---

Student Name, Organization