



ASUC OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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*** PRESS RELEASE ***

ASUC President Nguyen Vetoes SB 75A; Calls for Bringing Communities Together

Berkeley — ASUC President Van Nguyen released the following statement announcing his veto of SB 75A:

Last Wednesday night the ASUC Senate approved SB 75A, a bill “Affirming the US-Israel Relationship” by a close 11-7-2 margin. Today, ASUC President Van Nguyen has decided to veto this bill.

“The decision on whether or not to veto this bill has certainly not been easy,” said Nguyen. “However, when I first read SB75A, I was immediately reminded of the interfaith dinner that leaders of Berkeley Hillel, Jewish Student Union, and Muslim Student Association held in February thanks in part to the hard work of former senators Ilana Nankin, David Israel Wasserman, and Ali Ansary. Then, and even more now, I appreciated and respected how the leaders of these communities put aside their differences in the interest of building trust, building bridges, and bringing communities together. I wish the that SB 75A would have been written in a similarly inclusive manner.”

However, the flawed process through which this bill was conceived is not the only reason some are supporting the veto. “I find it problematic to affirm the relationship between the United States and Israel without any mention of a desire for peace, justice, equality, and coexistence for Israelis and Palestinians,” said CalSERVE Senator Roxanne Winston.

Furthermore, Independent Senator Nadir Shams said, “I support the actions of the ASUC President because this bill exemplifies an unfortunate reality of our



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current Cal community—even with such incredible diversity, there is a very apparent lack of communication and unity. While this issue in particular is very contentious and complex, concerned students from all groups can come together again, truly compromise, and use the ASUC as a platform for reaffirming a reciprocal, comprehensive, multilateral peace.”

According to the ASUC Constitution, one of the President’s primary duties is to “monitor the health and well-being of the ASUC and the student body which it represents.” Keeping this in mind, the President, in consultation with student leaders and colleagues in the ASUC Senate, will work hard to bring communities together to craft a bill that will be amicable to all.

“I hope that there will be a productive dialogue on campus between students who are interested in or impassioned by this issue,” said Nguyen. “We won’t run from this debate. Instead, based on this dialogue, we will work together on a bill that most students can agree on.”

“My sincere hope is that the discussion that follows be a collaborative one, colored by a sense of mutual cooperation and genuine commitment to peace and justice for all parties involved,” said Student Action Senator Corey Jackson.

“I’m optimistic that various sides of this debate can come together to craft a bill that will pass unanimously in the ASUC Senate,” added chief of staff in the ASUC Office of the President Candace Frazier Nisby. “We may not see eye to eye on all things, but it is vital that we communicate with each other and find common ground where we can.”

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