

University of Colorado Student Union

April 19th, 2001
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LCR# 10
Arts & Sciences Senator
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Resolution Summary

In our current day of age there are many barriers preventing a significant portion of humanity from achieving an elevated level of understanding due not necessarily by an individual lack of will, but to a systematic constraint on peoples in societies across the globe. In addition, the institutions provided for achieving the means to enlightenment are frequently utilized by governments and authoritative factions to render the masses incapable of understanding the oppressive grievances placed on them, therefore achieving a desired level of approval.

As the United States of America is viewed currently by many who conform to western philosophy as the most powerful nation on earth based on economic might therefore among the most "developed" of nations, the public system of education is ironically facing a severe crisis. Aside from the astounding dropout rates, the lack of federal and state support, the out-dated curriculum and corporate influence among other deficiencies, the system as a whole is inarguably biased to a historic value for European thought, culture and philosophy.

Dating back to the beginnings of the Euro-centric system by which the U.S. is governed now, the system of public education has been operating on many inaccurate accounts of U.S. history and on an ethno-centric curriculum excluding the contributions, achievements and leadership of other influences on the development of the U.S. Further, the history offered in the text books is primarily based on European philosophy and origination, severely narrowing the scope of understanding and appreciation for the nation's true identity. This identity being a culmination of achievements, leadership, developments, innovation, sacrifice and honor due to a wide variety of ethnic groups coming from regions around the world.

The Euro-centric nature of our institutions of enlightenment do not stop when we graduate high-school, but persist further into higher education. Despite the far-reaching development that we make as students emerged in constant academic challenges to excel as intellectuals, we still operate on a narrow, biased and outdated Euro-centric foundation.

The University of Colorado Boulder is guilty of perpetuating this cycle of mis-education, and contributes to a system that is plagued by delusion and a lack of understanding for those who have come to shape the face of our nation as we know it.

Resolution Summary

Whereas: Our nation's classrooms are failing to meet the advancement of society at large, in an era of rapidly transforming notions of what it means to be American.

Whereas: A nation's sense of self-identity is a reflection of a nation's ability to adhere to a system of governance that is inclusive to all its citizenship.

Whereas: We are no longer in an era where European values form the basis of a

dominant culture, therefore our institutions of enlightenment are outdated and pose a disservice to the current and future generations of students.

Whereas: It is no longer in the best interests of the government to utilize institutions of enlightenment as a device of glorification for the once perceived dominant European culture.

Whereas: Our future generations of scholars will better understand the nature of the issues facing our society if they grasp a true understanding of the history behind them.

Section #1 - This resolution shall serve merely as a proclamation, as this Student Union has no direct discretion over university curriculum. However this resolution shall urge faculty and staff to re-evaluate the Euro-centric nature of the academic basis by which the University of Colorado Boulder conforms to.

Section #2 - This resolution shall promote the seeds of a movement in departments campus-wide to incorporate a curriculum that is inclusive of achievement and historical events outside of the European scope.

Section #3 - This resolution shall set the wheels of a movement nation-wide in motion, to re-evaluate the nature of curriculums in all facets of enlightenment in the spirit of this proclamation.

Section #4 - This resolution takes effect upon passage.

4/19/01

Passed

10-3-3

4/26/01

Passed

7-0-2