



# The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.R. 73-01

Texas A&M University  
The Student Senate  
73rd Session

## APIDA/Asian American COVID-19 Support Resolution

*"A resolution supporting people of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American descent from increased incidents of racism and xenophobia as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic."*

Action Taken: Passed

Certified By: Zach McCue  
Zach McCue  
Speaker of the Senate

Date Passed: 5-20-20

**Introduced By:** Megha Viswanath, Off-Campus Caucus  
Iman Ahmed, Diversity & Inclusion Chair, Off-Campus Caucus  
Collin Tran, Health Science Center Caucus  
Yung-Ju "Daniel" Cheng, Associate Justice, SGA Judicial Court  
Alexia Hernandez, Liberal Arts Caucus  
Jocelyn Marrufo, Liberal Arts Caucus

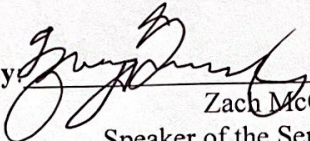
**Sponsored By:** Fawaz Syed, Student Services Chair, Engineering Caucus  
Jack Merritt, On-Campus Caucus  
Dylan Bohn, Mays Business Caucus  
Sofia Chunga Pizarro, Off-Campus Caucus  
Julia Garcia, Health Science Center Caucus  
Selin Korkmaz, Off-Campus Caucus  
Alina Corpus, Engineering Caucus  
Carly Oldag, Community Relations, COALS Caucus  
Rachel Hutto, Off-Campus Caucus  
Micheal Garcia, Off-Campus Caucus  
Meghan Hein, Rules & Regulations Chair, COALS Caucus  
David Garcia, Off-Campus Caucus  
Aariana Myles, Off-Campus Caucus



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Zach McCue  
Speaker of the Senate

- Whereas (1):** Due to COVID-19, many Aggies are no longer present in College Station but are currently back home, whether that be in Texas, in the United States or globally; and,
- Whereas (2):** During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in incidents of blatant racism and aggression towards people of APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) descent and Asian Americans; and,
- Whereas (3):** A TAMU-affiliated organization publicly tweeted a xenophobic and derogatory tweet regarding the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
- Whereas (4):** The Battalion published an article, that spoke of some Aggies' use of derogatory and demeaning remarks towards Asian Americans and those of Asian descent; and,
- Whereas (5):** In 2015, the World Health Organization published a "Best Practices for the Naming of New Human Infectious Diseases"<sup>2</sup>, in which they highlighted that naming diseases based on geographical locations, cultures, populations, or occupations should be avoided. Past diseases such as the Spanish Flu and the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome were cited as naming conventions to avoid; and,
- Whereas (6):** Terms such as "Chinese Virus", "Wuhan Flu", and "Kung Flu" or similar variations attach a racial and ethnic stigma to the disease, regardless of the intention, and opens up groups to be unjustly targeted; and,
- Whereas (7):** According to Dr. Reber, the Dean of Student Life for Texas A&M University, there have been a total 112 Stop Hate reports regarding the aforementioned tweet in Whereas 2 and four Stop Hate reports regarding "two separate GroupMe's, associated with a class, where a student used terms like 'Chinese virus' and 'Corona Boy'", thus highlighting that Texas A&M Students have been impacted and concerned by said actions; and,

1 [http://www.thebatt.com/life-arts/anti-asian-sentiment-rises-during-pandemic/article\\_f9b53164-7aac-11ea-b6be-b7f67d5bb503.html](http://www.thebatt.com/life-arts/anti-asian-sentiment-rises-during-pandemic/article_f9b53164-7aac-11ea-b6be-b7f67d5bb503.html)

2 [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/163636/WHO\\_HSE\\_FOS\\_15.1\\_eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/163636/WHO_HSE_FOS_15.1_eng.pdf)



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**Whereas (8):** The Department of Justice released a statement, cautioning against the spread of misinformation that proves harmful towards ethnic minorities and individuals of descent; and,

**Whereas (9):** The Anti-Defamation League also highlights over 70 specific cases of coronavirus-related anti-Asian incidents, across the U.S, with several cases in the state of Texas. Based on an FBI intelligence report compiled by the FBI's Houston office, the FBI has warned, of an increase in hate crime incidents against the Asian American population in response to misinformation associating the spread of the virus to these populations.

**Therefore**

**Let it be**

**Resolved (1):** The 73rd Session of Student Senate supports all APIDA/Asian American Aggies during this time, no matter where they may currently be, in the United States or globally; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Resolved (2):** The 73rd session of the Student Senate condemns all racist, xenophobic, or derogatory behavior towards all people regardless of their race or ethnicity; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Resolved (3):** The 73rd session of the Student Senate recognizes that hateful speech and behavior do not represent our Aggie Core Values of Respect, Integrity, and Excellence; and,

3 <https://www.justice.gov/usao-or/pr/federal-law-enforcement-leaders-affirm-importance-protecting-civil-rights-amid>

4 <https://www.adl.org/blog/reports-of-anti-asian-assaults-harassment-and-hate-crimes-rise-as-coronavirus-spreads>

5 <https://abcnews.go.com/US/fbi-warns-potential-surge-hate-crimes-asian-americans/story?id=69831920>

6 [https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/naming-the-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-2019\)-and-the-virus-that-causes-it#:~:text=ICTV%20announced%20%E2%80%9Csevere%20acute,on%2011%20February%202020](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/naming-the-coronavirus-disease-(covid-2019)-and-the-virus-that-causes-it#:~:text=ICTV%20announced%20%E2%80%9Csevere%20acute,on%2011%20February%202020)



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Speaker of the Senate

Let it be  
Further

**Resolved (4):** The 73rd Session of Student Senate encourages all Aggies to use name variations that do not attach a racial or cultural stigma to a certain groups, such as the official names announced by the World Health Organization, — “coronavirus disease” and “COVID-19”; and,

Let it be  
Further

**Resolved (5):** While political discourse and freedom of speech are crucial, the 73rd session of Student Senate recognizes that criticizing the Chinese government can occur without resorting to hostile rhetorics against the Asian community; and,

Let it be  
Further

**Resolved (6):** The 73rd session of Student Senate supports all minority groups affected by negative racial and xenophobic sentiments during the COVID-19 pandemic and encourages all Aggies to utilize resources such as the Stop Hate ([stophate.tamu.edu](http://stophate.tamu.edu)) initiative or the Tell Somebody online form ([tellsomebody.tamu.edu](http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu)) to report any harmful or hateful activities and to reach out to Counseling & Psychological Services (<https://caps.tamu.edu/>) and HelpLine (979-845-2700) as needed; and,

Let it be  
Further

**Resolved (7):** A copy of this resolution be sent to:

*John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System*

*Michael K. Young, President, Texas A&M University*

*Dr. Driver, Director of Department of Multicultural Services*

*Dr. Daniel J. Pugh Sr., Vice President of Student Affairs*

*Asian Presidents Council (APC)*

*Institute for the Development of Asian American Leaders (IDEAAL)*

*The Battalion*