

**SENATE RESOLUTION
SR-F18-004B (Updated)**

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SPONSOR(S)	Andy Veliz (CNAS Senator) Kenneth Thai (CNAS Senator)
TITLE	Resolution for Project Manager of the Construction of the STEM High School to Take Student Concerns and Input Into Consideration.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Riverside Unified School District signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with University of California, Riverside in order to expand STEM education for Riverside students. Part of the agreement included discussions about constructing a new, state-of-the-art STEM facility on the UC Riverside campus. The preferred site to be utilized includes the three existing student recreation fields North of the Glen Mor residential halls. The construction of this new STEM facility would be at a disadvantage to existing students because of removal of heavily used campus fields along with possible heavy student traffic during unregulated STEM Academy hours[2].

WHEREAS, on September 25th, 2018, the Riverside Unified School District and the University of California, Riverside held a meeting to discuss the construction of a STEM High School on 5.7 acres of land by Watkins Drive and Valencia Hill Road located right next to the Glen Mor student campus apartments;

WHEREAS, the STEM High School would house 400 students and 800 part-time students[1];

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside agreed to provide protocols and procedures for donating equipment and materials to RSA, access to auditorium/large classroom facilities, field trips to laboratories and other pertinent University facilities and programs[2];

WHEREAS, the STEM High School will be built over heavily used campus intramural fields affecting 47.5 percent of intramural participants and 40 percent Sport Club participants[3];

WHEREAS, the UC Recreational Governing Board would be forced to shut down one of their Club Sports programs to accommodate this development;

WHEREAS, the implementation of the STEM High School could increase the amount of student traffic during school hours where students of the STEM High School are not regulated heavily[2];

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside proposed new fields to be built in North District, but recent development have discontinued the idea of the new fields and no clear designation has been decided for construction of new fields;

WHEREAS, there have been no clear communication between students, staff, and community about the construction plans;

WHEREAS, University of California, Riverside’s project manager and administrators never directly informed the community and the effects that could arise from the project.

WHEREAS, the implementation of the STEM High School would cause more traffic along the one-laned Watkins Road, which already is a heavily used by the Riverside community during certain hours;

WHEREAS, the implementation of the STEM High School would only serve a small part of the community and would take away much needed funds from unprivileged and underrepresented students in the Riverside Public School System. This expansion not only propagates but enforces a class system within the Riverside Public School District and would only benefit the few privileged high school students who are fortunate enough to attend this academy;

WHEREAS, Riverside schools like Ramona High School are considered low performing as per their ACT scores, SAT scores, and average AP participation rates, below the state average, suggesting that more work must be done in order to holistically serve Riverside School students in these areas;

WHEREAS, a survey done by the Associated Students External Affairs Lobby Corps found that 80% of the students that participated were uncomfortable with the construction of the STEM high school;

WHEREAS, the University of California Riverside is continually expanding, it is unfeasible to construct a high school on public space that would encroach on already impacted campus space;

WHEREAS, a recent increase of reported sexual deviance on and near the UCR campus poses an imminent threat to existing student safety and proposed high school aged students attending the STEM high school.

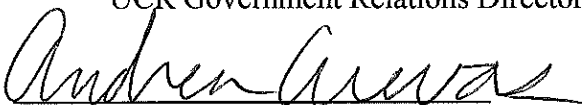
RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of UC Riverside -

- (1) Demand that UC Riverside Administration and Riverside Unified School District renegotiate the terms of their said agreement, strongly considering alternate locations for the construction of the STEM High School in order to more adequately serve the students of low performing high schools that would benefit from the enhancement of STEM education.
- (2) *Let It Be Further Resolved* ASUCR demand that the Chancellor, Kim Wilcox, Vice Chancellor of Budget and Planning, Gerry Bomotti, and Government Relations Director, Jeff Kraus, listen to and incorporate students' and community concerns as well as take into serious consideration their input via information sessions, adequately inform students regarding the transparency of said proposition through campus-wide email, and have student and community leaders invited to key discussions centered around decision making for this project.

Sources

- [1] <https://agendaonline.net/public/Meeting.aspx?AgencyID=1282&MeetingID=15452&AgencyTypeID=1&IsArchived=True>
- [2] <http://senate.ucr.edu/misc/UCR-RSA%20High%20school%207%2022%202018.pdf>
- [3] Competitive Sports Department Statistics

Cc: UCR Chancellor
UCR Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
Highlander Newspaper
UCR Vice Chancellor of Budget and Planning
UCR Government Relations Director



Andrea Cuevas
Executive Vice President

SUBMITTED ON - November 28th, 2018
COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - November 28th, 2018
VOTE COUNT - 6-0-1
SENATE APPROVED ON - November 28th, 2018
VOTE COUNT - 14-0-2