In Support of Stanford Law School’s Non-discrimination Policy

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Sponsors:

Action Requested: APPROVAL by Majority

WHEREAS Stanford Law School, in furtherance of its academic mission, adheres to a non-discrimination policy that covers race, ethnicity, gender, physical disability, and a range of other characteristics including sexual orientation,

WHEREAS Stanford Law School, under this policy, excludes any employer that discriminates in its hiring practices from recruiting on campus,

WHEREAS Stanford Law School’s non-discrimination policy would require that military recruiters be excluded from law school programs based on their explicit policy of discrimination against gays and lesbians,

WHEREAS the Department of Defense recently reinterpreted the Solomon Amendment, changing its regulations to withdraw a university’s federal funding if any part of the university fails to give military recruiters the benefit of every service and facility made available to employers that do not discriminate,

WHEREAS this new interpretation of the Solomon Amendment forces universities such as Stanford to choose between abandoning their values and losing upwards of hundreds of millions of federal dollars,

WHEREAS Stanford Law School as an academic institution has the right to determine and maintain policies against offering its resources, support, or endorsement to any employer that discriminates in violation of its merit-based non-discrimination policy,

WHEREAS, the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights (FAIR), an association of law schools committed to fighting for academic freedom, has filed suit in federal district court in New Jersey against Donald Rumsfeld and the Department of Defense,

WHEREAS the suit, captioned FAIR and Society of American Law Teachers, et. al. v. Rumsfeld, et. al., alleges that the Solomon Amendment is a blatant violation of the First Amendment rights of academic institutions and faculties to decide what lessons to teach their students and how to teach those lessons,

WHEREAS Stanford Law School has yet to sign on as a member of FAIR, and its faculty has yet to join the Society of American Law Teachers,

WHEREAS Stanford Law School cannot join the law suit without the approval of Stanford University,
WHEREAS Stanford University should stand up for its academic principles and the rights of its students,

THEREFORE IT BE ENACTED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL:

THAT the Graduate Student Council supports Stanford Law School’s non-discrimination policy,

THAT the Graduate Student Council encourages Stanford University to join the law suit as a member of FAIR, or alternatively, encourages Stanford University to permit Stanford Law School’s faculty to join FAIR as an unincorporated association.