

**CAL POLY HUMBOLDT  
University Senate**

**Sense of the Senate Resolution on**

**Affirming Public Higher Education, Peace Education,  
and Opposition to Militarization and Military Intervention**

16-25/26- Senate Executive Committee- February 3, 2026

**WHEREAS:** The mission of the California State University system affirms a commitment to public higher education, access, equity, academic freedom, critical inquiry, and the advancement of knowledge in service of the public good <sup>[1]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Institutions of higher education have a responsibility to prepare students to engage complex global and domestic challenges through education, research, dialogue, and ethical responsibility rather than through violence, repression, or militarization<sup>[2]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** The 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, has been widely criticized for its humanitarian and geopolitical consequences—including prolonged instability, civilian suffering, and long-term regional disruption<sup>[3,4]</sup>—serves as a historical example of the serious costs of military intervention; and recent U.S. military operations in Venezuela<sup>[5]</sup> and sustained military presence have raised concerns about regional destabilization, while longstanding conflicts in and around Palestine<sup>[6]</sup> demonstrate the enduring human toll of militarized occupation and intervention in the West Asia<sup>[7]</sup>, and given these lessons from Iraq, current global tensions, and the risk that renewed military attacks—such as proposals for action against Iran—could repeat patterns of harm and weaken diplomatic and peaceful alternatives; and

**WHEREAS:** Public resources directed toward military intervention and militarized enforcement reduce available funding for public education, including instruction, student support services, mental health resources, research, and international academic exchange<sup>[8]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Universities have a responsibility to protect academic freedom and to support students, faculty, and staff who are directly affected by war, displacement, sanctions, occupation, and political violence, including international students, undocumented students, and members of diaspora communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Recent domestic developments—including the mobilization of armed federal forces to respond to pro-immigrant protests and the killing of U.S. citizens during immigration enforcement operations—have raised serious concerns about the increasing militarization of civil governance and the erosion of civil liberties that directly impact university communities<sup>[9], [10]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Education for critical global awareness and engaged scholarship are central to the mission of public higher education and are essential for fostering democratic participation, social responsibility, and nonviolent approaches to conflict<sup>[11]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Students across CSU campuses have engaged in lawful activism, organizing, and protest calling for peace, divestment from militarized industries, protection of immigrant communities, and reinvestment in public education and social services<sup>[12]</sup>; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt affirms its opposition to military intervention in Venezuela, Iran, and Palestine and supports diplomatic, humanitarian, and international legal approaches to conflict resolution; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the University Senate calls for the prioritization of public investment in education, research, and student support services over military expansion and militarized enforcement; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the University Senate supports continuation of a transparent and ethical review of institutional investments and encourages divestment from corporations and entities that materially contribute to war, occupation, militarized repression, or violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, consistent with shared governance processes; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the University Senate affirms the importance of peace education, critical global studies, and interdisciplinary teaching and research that examine the causes and consequences of war, colonialism, racism, other forms of structural and systemic oppression, and militarization; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the University Senate recognizes and supports the rights of students, faculty, and staff to engage in peaceful activism, protest, and civic participation as core components of democratic education and academic freedom, and affirms the protection of campus spaces as sites of open inquiry and dissent.

**RESOLVED,** That this resolution be distributed to:

- The President of Cal Poly Humboldt;
- Cal Poly Humboldt general faculty, staff, administrators, and students;
- Associated Students of Cal Poly Humboldt;
- California State Student Association (CSSA);
- The Chancellor of the California State University system, *Mildred Garcia*.
- The Academic Senate of the California State University;
- The Governor of California, *Gavin Newsom*;
- California United States Senators *Alex Padilla* and *Adam Schiff*; and
- California's Second Congressional District Representative, Congressman *Jared Huffman*.

## Notes

- [1] California State University Mission Statement, CSU System Office.  
(<https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/Pages/mission.aspx>)
- [2] American Association of Colleges & Universities, *The Civic Purposes of Higher Education*.  
(<https://www.aacu.org/research/the-effects-of-community-based-engagement-in-higher-education>)
- [3] Consequences of the 2003 Iraq War, *Iraq 20 Years After the Invasion*, Center for Strategic and International Studies  
(<https://www.csis.org/analysis/iraq-20-years-after-invasion-humanitarian-displacement-and-climate-change-challenges>)
- [4] *The 2003 Iraq War and Its Aftermath*, Global Complexity  
(<https://www.globalcomplexity.org/the-2003-iraq-war-and-its-aftermath>).
- [5] The 2026 U.S. military intervention in Venezuela and international legal concerns  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\\_United\\_States\\_intervention\\_in\\_Venezuela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_United_States_intervention_in_Venezuela)).
- [6] The historical complexity and humanitarian toll of long-term conflict in the Palestinian territories and the Middle East (<https://academic.oup.com/ia/article/99/2/567/7034357>).
- [7] United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency Situation Report.  
(<https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-177-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>)
- [8] Congressional Budget Office, U.S. military spending and federal budget priorities.  
(<https://www.cbo.gov/topics/defense-and-national-security>)
- [8] Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, statements on protecting international and immigrant students and scholars.  
(<https://www.presidentsalliance.org>)
- [9] The Widespread Effects of Immigration Enforcement on Schools.  
(<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-widespread-effects-of-immigration-enforcement-on-schools-in-charts/2025/11>)
- [10] A Minute-by-minute Timeline of the Fatal Shooting of Alex Pretti Involving Federal Agents  
<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/minute-minute-timeline-fatal-shooting-alex-pretti-federal/story?id=129547199>
- [11] UNESCO, Education for Peace and Human Rights.  
(<https://www.unesco.org/en/global-citizenship-peace-education/recommendation>)
- [12] American Association of University Professors, statements on academic freedom, student activism, and campus protest.  
(<https://www.aaup.org/issues/free-speech-campus>)