

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Sense of the Senate Resolution on
Right to Academic Freedom, Peace Education, and Critical Global Studies

19-25/26-University Senate – February 17, 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^[1]; 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^[2]; 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^[3]; 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^[4]; and

WHEREAS: Federal government encroachment on educational frameworks, university departments, and entire campus systems—including efforts to regulate or restrict the teaching of American history, as well as instruction related to war, colonialism, racism, and other forms of structural and systemic oppression—poses a threat to academic freedom and institutional autonomy^[5]; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the University Senate affirms the right to academic freedom such that scholars, researchers, and students in higher education may inquire, teach, publish, and discuss ideas—including controversial or unpopular ones—without censorship, political interference, or fear of professional retribution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that academic freedom includes 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 this resolution be distributed to:

- The President of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Richard Carvajal*;
- General Faculty President of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Chris Harmon*;
- Staff Council Chair of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Kathy Hudson*;
- President of the Associated Students of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Eduardo Cruz*;
- California State Student Association (CSSA);
- Chair of the Academic Senate of the California State University, *Elizabeth Boyd*;
- The Chancellor of the California State University System, *Mildred García*;
- 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] Fighting to Protect – and Define – Academic Freedom, Academic Magazine from AAUP: American Association of University Professors
(<https://www.aaup.org/academe/issues/105-1/fighting-protect-and-define-academic-freedom>)

[4] UNESCO, Education for Peace and Human Rights.
(<https://www.unesco.org/en/global-citizenship-peace-education/recommendation>)

[5] Academic Freedom Under Siege: The Global Fallout of US Authoritarianism and Its Threats to Comparative and International Education. <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/736480>