CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Sense of the Senate Resolution on
Expectations for Ethical Research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California

02-26/27-Ex – September 29, 2026 – Second Reading

WHEREAS: With Humboldt State University's transformation into California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, the number of non-Native researchers who want to work with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California is expected to rise; and

WHEREAS: Research should be a community-led initiative with aligning goals of supporting tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and cultural preservation; and

WHEREAS: In a good faith effort to avoid potential harms to Indigenous Communities and to recognize past harms to Indigenous Communities, a document (attached) was created collaboratively for the Expectations for Ethical Research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California; and

WHEREAS: The document describes basic expectations for non-Native researchers who want to engage in ethical research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California; and

WHEREAS: These basic expectations are necessary; they are not, in and of themselves, sufficient for ethical research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California; and

WHEREAS: The following frameworks outlined in the "Expectations for Ethical Research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California" should be considered a "floor," not a "ceiling"; and

WHEREAS: The document does not claim to address all people, communities, or Tribes of Northwestern California; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt supports the integration of this document as necessary ongoing professional development for faculty, staff, and students engaged in scholarly research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California and on their tribal lands; and

RESOLVED, That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt urges the Sponsored Programs Foundation to continue integrating this document into the review processes for research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern California and on their tribal lands; and

RESOLVED, That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt urges the Office of Institutional Compliance to integrate this document into the review process for human subject and animal subject research with Indigenous Communities of Northwestern and on their tribal lands; and

RESOLVED, That the attached document and resolution be distributed to

- The General Faculty of Cal Poly Humboldt
- The President of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Richard Carvajal;*
- Special Assistant to the President for Tribal & Community Engagement, *Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond*
- Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, *Shawna Young*
- Associate Vice President for Research, *Kacie Flynn*
- Director of the Office of Institutional Compliance, *Nino Dzotsenidze*
- General Faculty President of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Chris Harmon*
- Staff Council Co-Chairs of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Stephanie Whittlesey & Aylea Maxwell-Miller*
- President of Associated Students of Cal Poly Humboldt, *Ayan Cabot*
- President of the Cal State Student Association, *Artur Gafurov*
- Chair of the Academic Senate of the CSU, *Adam Swenson*