

Adopted: June 1, 2004

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-621-04/MF

**RESOLUTION ON
ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

- 1 WHEREAS, Academic freedom is the pillar of our University's fundamental mission of
2 discover and advancement of knowledge and its dissemination to students and the
3 public; and
4
- 5 WHEREAS, Restrictions on the freedom of teaching, research, expression, and publication
6 pose obstacles for all faculty in fulfilling the academic mission of the University;
7 and
8
- 9 WHEREAS, In recent years, in the name of security, some campuses have developed policies
10 which pose restrictions on academic freedom; and
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- 12 WHEREAS, Trustees' audit staff, acting on behalf of the Trustees, have informed campus
13 administrators to implement risk management guidelines to determine whether
14 insurance needs to be purchased for activities such as speakers, instructors, and
15 special lecturers; and
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- 17 WHEREAS, A user or department that declines to purchase insurance when recommended by
18 campus Risk Management would then be obligated to absorb the first \$250,000 of
19 damages in the event of an "accident"; and
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- 21 WHEREAS, Such policy may inhibit protections of academic freedom by placing financial
22 burden on the sponsor; and
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- 24 WHEREAS, We have also witnessed attempts to quell discussion of controversial issues under
25 the guise of a need for a "balanced" approach; and
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- 27 WHEREAS, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, has officially recognized and supported the AAUP
28 Principles of Academic Freedom; therefore, be it
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- 30 RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate reaffirm its commitment to upholding and
31 protecting the principles of academic freedom; and, be it further
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33 RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate call on the University community to maintain
34 the campus as an open forum for free expression of ideas and diverse views in the
35 framework of scholarly inquiry and professional ethics; and be it further
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37 RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate encourage Cal Poly administration to review
38 campus policies and procedures to ensure protection of freedom of inquiry,
39 research, expression, and teaching both inside the classroom and beyond; and be
40 it further
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42 RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate encourage the President to bring to the
43 attention of the Trustees the adverse impact on academic freedom of policies
44 recommended by the auditor and request the Trustees to reconsider any policy
45 that impedes full academic freedom.

Proposed by: Manzar Foroohar, statewide Academic Senator
Date: May 4, 2004
Revised: May 11, 2004

