

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
11
- 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
16
- 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
20
- 21 WHEREAS, Such policy may inhibit protections of academic freedom by placing financial
22 burden on the sponsor; and
23
- 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
26
- 27 WHEREAS, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, has officially recognized and supported the AAUP
28 Principles of Academic Freedom; therefore, be it
29
- 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
32

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
36
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 it
40 further
41
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 that
45 impedes full academic freedom.

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

State of California
Memorandum

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CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

ACADEMIC SENATE

To: David Hannings
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: June 28, 2004

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: R. Detweiler, L. Kelley

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-621-04/MF
Resolution on Academic Freedom

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt and approval of the above subject Resolution. I know of no change in University policy on academic freedom issues, and the University remains committed to the principles of academic freedom. If specific instances are brought to our attention, they will certainly be reviewed.

By copy of this memorandum to Vice President Larry Kelley, I am informing him of this Resolution as it relates to the "Whereas" clauses associated with comments concerning State auditors and risk management issues.