WHEREAS, Academic freedom is the pillar of our University’s fundamental mission of discover and advancement of knowledge and its dissemination to students and the public; and

WHEREAS, Restrictions on the freedom of teaching, research, expression, and publication pose obstacles for all faculty in fulfilling the academic mission of the University; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, in the name of security, some campuses have developed policies which pose restrictions on academic freedom; and

WHEREAS, Trustees’ audit staff, acting on behalf of the Trustees, have informed campus administrators to implement risk management guidelines to determine whether insurance needs to be purchased for activities such as speakers, instructors, and special lecturers; and

WHEREAS, A user or department that declines to purchase insurance when recommended by campus Risk Management would then be obligated to absorb the first $250,000 of damages in the event of an “accident”; and

WHEREAS, Such policy may inhibit protections of academic freedom by placing financial burden on the sponsor; and

WHEREAS, We have also witnessed attempts to quell discussion of controversial issues under the guise of a need for a “balanced” approach; and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, has officially recognized and supported the AAUP Principles of Academic Freedom; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate reaffirm its commitment to upholding and protecting the principles of academic freedom; and, be it further
RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate call on the University community to maintain the campus as an open forum for free expression of ideas and diverse views in the framework of scholarly inquiry and professional ethics; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate encourage Cal Poly administration to review campus policies and procedures to ensure protection of freedom of inquiry, research, expression, and teaching both inside the classroom and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate encourage the President to bring to the attention of the Trustees the adverse impact on academic freedom of policies recommended by the auditor and request the Trustees to reconsider any policy that impedes full academic freedom.

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