WHEREAS, Photographic evidence posted to social media shows that the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity House hosted a party coinciding with PolyCultural Weekend during which at least one student attended wearing blackface and numerous others dressed in "gangster" attire in a photo captioned "she wants a gangster not a pretty boy"; and

WHEREAS, Academic Senate Resolution AS-807-15 "Resolution on Cal Poly Statement on Diversity and Inclusivity" (Approved November 17, 2015), states, in part: "Cal Poly is an inclusive community that embraces differences in people and thoughts. By being open to new ideas and showing respect or diverse points of view, we support a climate that allows all students, faculty, and staff to feel valued, which in turn facilitates the recruitment and retention of a diverse student population. We are a culturally invested university whose members take personal responsibility for fostering excellence in our own and others' endeavors"; and

WHEREAS, The images from the Lambda Chi Alpha gathering foster an environment in which students of color and other historically underrepresented populations feel both unwelcome and unsafe at Cal Poly, as attested to by speakers at a Town Hall hosted by the Black Student Union on Monday, April 9, 2018, and by the peaceful protests and boycotts joined by a diverse group of student organizations during Cal Poly's 25th Annual Open House weekend; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate condemns the racist actions of the Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Sigma Zeta Chapter as well as their inactions as an affront to our community standards, our academic endeavors, and the desire to create a more diverse and inclusive environment, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate stands in solidarity with all student groups, administrators, and community members seeking to transform the University into a more diverse and welcoming environment for students from historically underrepresented populations.

Proposed by: Gregory F. Domber, Lecturer History Department and Seth D. Hanna, Lecturer Sociology Department
Date: May 3, 2018
This memo acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled resolution.

As I stated in my April 17, 2018 communication to the campus regarding the events mentioned in this resolution, I do not condone racist speech and actions – they are inconsistent with my personal values and those of Cal Poly. I continue to hope and strive, as many of you do, for a time when our campus no longer experiences actions that hurt or intimidate members of our community. Working together we will move forward and create a campus community where diversity and inclusion are a reality for every member. This remains a priority for me as president of Cal Poly.