

Resolution in Support of UC Davis Students and Faculty Right to Peaceably Assemble

December 5th, 2011

Be it Resolved:

That the Academic Senate, California State University, Fresno supports the rights of students and faculty at the University of California campuses and at all college campuses, especially those in California, to peaceably assemble and freely express their opinions in public spaces; and be it further

Resolved:

That the Academic Senate, CSU Fresno condemns the unnecessary actions taken by police at UC Davis on November 18, and at UC Berkeley on November 9 against peaceful protesters; and be it further

Resolved:

That the Academic Senate, CSU Fresno support the UC Davis Faculty Association's call for the immediate resignation of Chancellor Katehi, who authorized the police action against UC Davis protesters; and be it further

Resolved:

That the Academic Senate, CSU Fresno reiterate that an academic community is a community based on free and open discourse in which questioning authority is not only accepted, but encouraged; and be it further

Resolved:

That this statement be distributed to all campus chancellors in the University of California System as well as all campus presidents in the California State University System, the Board of Regents of the University of California, the Board of Trustees of the California State University, and the Academic Senate of the California State University.

Rationale: The *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*¹ adopted by the American Association of University Professors, the American Association of University Administrators, the United States Student Association, and the Association of American Colleges and Universities recognizes that

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students should be

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<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/stud-rights.htm>

encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth.

Further, as part of achieving this purpose, the statement goes on to state that

Students and student organizations should be free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. They should always be free to support causes by orderly means that do not disrupt the regular and essential operations of the institution. At the same time, it should be made clear to the academic and larger community that in their public expressions or demonstrations students or student organizations speak only for themselves.

As members of an academic community it is our duty to protect the rights of our community members to freely express themselves, to participate in open discourse, and to peacefully assemble. We join with our colleagues in the AAUP in condemning these attacks on free expression². If faculty do nothing to safeguard these rights, then we have failed our disciplines, our universities, our students, and our societies.

² <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/newsroom/2011PRs/ucfreeexpress.htm>