

California Faculty Association Resolution on Academic Freedom

WHEREAS, academic freedom is the pillar of a university's fundamental mission of discovery 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, we have witnessed attempts to quell discussion of contentious issues under the guise of a need for a "balanced" approach;

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the California Faculty Association (CFA) reaffirms its commitment to upholding and protecting the principles of academic freedom and endorses the American Association of University Professors' 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments, specifically: the right of faculty to teach, conduct research or other scholarship, and publish free of external constraints other than denoted by normal scholarly standards; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CFA calls on the university community to maintain the campuses as open forums for free expression of ideas, and diverse views in the framework of scholarly inquiry and professional ethics; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CFA encourages local chapters to review campus policies for the protection of freedom of inquiry, research, expression, and teaching both inside the classroom and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CFA opposes any statewide or campus policy, which would restrict academic freedom in the name of issues such as "security" or "balanced approach to controversial issues."

Adopted by CFA Board of Directors
April 23, 2004