

October 21, 2024

## **CFA@LB Statement Against Time, Place, Manner (TPM) Policy**

The California Faculty Association at Long Beach (CFA@LB) chapter writes this statement to express our deep concern with, and condemnation of, the August 2024 Interim CSU Time, Place, Manner (TPM) Policy and the 2024 CSULB Interim Addendum. We also express our dismay with the selective use of TPM to target six faculty in August 2024 for their participation at a teach-in in May 2024, most of whom are faculty of color, and women of color. Faculty at CSULB are proud union members, and we recognize a boss tactic implicated in social and racial injustice when we see it.

Academic freedom, free speech, and debate are integral to a healthy university campus—a hallmark of a faculty's, librarian's, counselor's, and coach's ability to educate our students. While classrooms are an important site to learn and discuss together, so are the university's myriad venues for public forums, gathering spaces, and rallies about social justice issues, or even picketing for faculty rights. This is what makes the heart of a "public" university public.

Furthermore, speaking out and using sound to amplify a teach-in, workshop, or speech, has been an ongoing and productive practice for advancing social and racial justice on college campuses for decades. Examples include: San Francisco State University's student strikes for Ethnic Studies in '68; national student dissent over the Vietnam War in the 70s; and our own local CSULB rallies over issues of tuition hikes, spontaneous protests on bodily freedom and reproductive justice, public square teach-ins on environmental justice, and lawn events targeting sexual harassment.

However, Chancellor Garcia and Vice-President of Student Affairs (VPSA) Lesen are trying to intimidate and silence faculty, staff and students from exercising not only our free speech rights, but also our union rights as well. Through the TPM policy, Chancellor Garcia and VPSA Lesen would like to halt public freedom of assembly, association, and workers' rights to concerted activity and labor organizing. Additionally, VPSA Lesen has set up a vast surveillance system which requires approval for any printed material faculty may want to post. In other words, the TPM policy is a tool to further consolidate power into the hands of administrators, and away from faculty, staff, and students. We believe it is unconstitutional, and violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It also creates a culture of fear and surveillance which is detrimental to our university's core mission of public education, worsens faculty teaching conditions and student learning conditions, and erodes the ability of our faculty and students to thrive.

We also know that this new iteration of the interim TPM and our campus' 30-page addendum comes as a reaction against peaceful student organizing since the Fall of 2023 that draws explicit attention to and calls for resistance against the ongoing genocide in Palestine.

Therefore, we condemn the use of public funds to stifle our freedoms. We reject the conflation of speech and protest with a lack of safety. We condemn the warnings issued to the CSU5—warnings clearly issued because of a disagreement with the speech.

We demand that Chancellor Garcia and VPSA Lesen withdraw their punitive policies. The core mission of the CSU is education, not surveillance. Faculty, staff and students on campus lead this mission daily. We simply ask Chancellor Garcia and VPSA Lesen to stop interfering.

While the CSULB campus has made some minor changes to its TPM addendum in an effort to avoid the shameful scrutiny it invited—including from a CFA@LB message and Latinx Faculty and Staff Association (LFSA) statement on the addendum's racist implications and a powerful ACLU letter last month—we have a long way to go. We call on fellow CSU union members, students, and concerned community members to join the movement for a just and equitable public university where the rights of academic freedom and free speech are respected and celebrated as a strength.