



University Senate

*Approved May 6, 2025*

## **Resolution**

### **In Support of Higher Education Coalitions that Stand Up For Education and Democracy**

WHEREAS, During the ongoing assaults by Federal Government leadership against higher education in the United States that began in January 2025, university and faculty senates across the country are banding together to stand up for higher education and democracy<sup>1</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Appeasement, capitulation, complacency, and “flying under the radar” have not proven to be effective strategies for higher education against the Federal Government’s onslaught of Executive Orders, unlawful, vindictive defunding, misinformation, and attempts to usurp Higher Education;<sup>2,3,4</sup> and

WHEREAS, On April 22, 2025, the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) published a public statement entitled, *A Call for Constructive Engagement*<sup>5</sup>, signed by leaders of America’s colleges, universities, and scholarly societies; and

WHEREAS, The San Diego State University (SDSU) Senate stands with higher education against the unprecedented government overreach and political interference that is currently endangering United States (U.S.) higher education and our society and culture as a whole<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Senate opposes the undue government intrusion in the lives of those who learn, live, and work on our campuses, including revoking visas, abducting people and incarcerating them inside and outside of the U.S.; and

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<sup>1</sup> [\*These Faculty Senates are Trying to Band Together to Stand Up to Trump\*](#). April 14, 2025. **Chronicle of Higher Education**:

<sup>2</sup> Robert Kuttner, R. March 24, 2025. [\*Columbia’s Capitulation, and Wesleyan’s Pushback\*](#).

<sup>3</sup> Rosenberg, B. March 24, 2025. [\*Columbia Capitulated — But So Did the Rest of Higher Ed: The gravity of the university’s mistake should not obscure our widespread failure\*](#). **Chronicle of Higher Education**.

<sup>4</sup> Michael Hiltzik, March 27, 2025. [\*Columbia University’s capitulation to Trump puts academic freedom at risk coast to coast\*](#). Los Angeles Times.

<sup>5</sup> Public Statement: [\*A Call for Constructive Engagement\*](#). April 22, 2025. **American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)**.

<sup>6</sup> *SDSU University Senate Resolution Condemning the Expansion of Administrative Policies Undermining the Right to Peaceful Campus Protest*:  
[https://senate.sdsu.edu/06\\_policy-file/24-25\\_resolution\\_condemning\\_expansion\\_of\\_administrative\\_policies\\_undermining\\_the\\_right\\_to\\_peaceful\\_protest.pdf](https://senate.sdsu.edu/06_policy-file/24-25_resolution_condemning_expansion_of_administrative_policies_undermining_the_right_to_peaceful_protest.pdf)



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WHEREAS, The Senate rejects the coercive use of public research funding to defund higher education institutions, constrain and constrict research across the disciplines, stifle the production of knowledge, and dismantle longstanding, productive partnerships between government and higher education institutions that will negatively impact the prosperity and innovation of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Senate rejects the hostile acts being perpetuated against international students and faculty and other countries that have sullied the reputation of the U.S. as a democratic, inclusive country; and

WHEREAS, The SDSU Senate applauds President Adela de la Torre for adding her name to the list of Presidents and leaders who signed the AAC&U public statement; and

WHEREAS, The Senate commends California Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and other legislators, the judiciary, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), American Council on Education (ACE), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other organizations for filing numerous lawsuits challenging the mass firings of Federal government employees and the abrupt and unlawful rescission of prior Federal agency policies, commitments and actions that preserved states' access to critically needed funding and support for higher education and the communities we serve<sup>789</sup>; and be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Senate commits to building coalitions with CSU and other higher education institutions, including, but not limited to: the CSU Council of Senate Chairs, the Academic Senate of the CSU, and the Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates; and

RESOLVED, That the SDSU Senate commends and supports President Adela de la Torre and San Diego State University as an institution in joining higher education compacts and coalitions committed to working together to protect the critical role that higher education and academic freedom plays in societal advancement through research and teaching in the service of democracy, human rights, and freedoms (speech, expression, association, etc.).

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<sup>7</sup> *The First 100 Days and Higher Education: Litigation Roundup*. **Foley Hoag**. April 30, 2025:

<sup>8</sup> Jones, C. & Zinshteyn, M., **March 13, 2025**. *California, other states sue to halt massive layoffs at U.S. Department of Education*. **CalMatters**.

<sup>9</sup> 2025 California Attorney General Rob Bonta Briefs filed related to assault on Higher Education: <https://oag.ca.gov/search-results/?query=2025+briefs+filed>



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RESOLVED, That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to:

- California Governor Gavin Newsom
- California Attorney General Rob Bonta
- SDSU President Adela de la Torre
- Academic Senate of the California State University System
- Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates
- CSU Board of Trustees
- CSU Chancellor
- CSU campus Presidents
- CSU campus Senate Chairs
- CSU campus Senate Executive Committees
- CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs
- California Faculty Association (CFA)
- California State Student Association (CSSA)
- CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA)
- Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges
- Academic Senate of the University of California
- California Community Colleges' Board of Governors
- University of California Board of Regents
- CSU Employees Union (CSUEU)
- CSU Academic Professionals of California (APC)
- UAW Local 4123 representing
- CSU Graduate Students Teamsters Local 2010 representing
- CSU Skilled Trades workers
- Assemblymembers
- State Senators

**Submitted By:**

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