

Resolution: Freedom of Speech (Miramar College)

The A.S. Exec has decided to postpone this item until we've had a chance to discuss it further—we are currently considering two resolutions. If faculty are interested, we can create a workgroup to develop a new resolution with two faculty from each side of the issue as well as two neutral faculty. Please let Pablo know if you would like to participate in that workgroup: pmartin@sdccd.edu.

1. You can see the resolution that was passed at City and Mesa Colleges here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wMCJiXp7uLaFjfsesfvaxtc9l7Twr0kG/view>
2. Here is another resolution that is being proposed by one of our faculty (where it will fit within either of these resolutions isn't clear):

Resolved, that the Academic Senate urges local senates to join with other faculty and student organizations to present debates, teach-ins, or other events to educate our students and faculty about the issues pertaining to using war as a form of conflict resolution and the issues involved in any war effort.

3. You can see an alternative version, "Resolution to ensure free speech..." below, that A.S. President Pablo Martin wrote in an effort to adhere to the recommendations from the ASCCC's [Resolutions Process Handbook](#).

Resolution to ensure free speech and academic freedom protections at Miramar and the San Diego Community College District

Contact: Pablo Martin; Academic Senate President, Miramar College

Whereas, a number of recent resolutions adopted by the ASCCC (Academic Senate of California Community Colleges) support academic freedom and free speech in the classroom and on college campuses, particularly Resolution [06.02 S22 Support of SR 45 \(Min, 2021\) on Academic Freedom as of March 17, 2022](#) and Resolution [13.04 S23 Resolution in Support of Academic Freedom/Solidarity with Faculty Across the Nation](#);

Whereas, SR 45 (Min, approved by the California Senate on April 4, 2022) states that "Academic freedom' means the freedom of teaching faculty to teach, conduct research, and speak as citizens without interference or restraint by the institution, boards of trustees, political figures, or other entities; is foundational for the free flow of knowledge, ideas, and governance on college campuses;" [1] and

Whereas, academic freedom, as defined by the American Association of University Professors, establishes that because faculty “write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their unique position in the community imposes special obligations” and they “should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution” [2];

Whereas, there have been efforts to punish individuals and groups for speaking in support of the Palestinian people [3];

Resolved, that the SDCCD reaffirm their commitment to the protection of academic freedom and freedom of speech as stated in BP 3900 especially in regard to speech regarding the Israel-Gaza war.

1. Senate Resolution No. 45, Introduced by Senator Min July 14, 2021; approved, as amended, on April 4, 2022
2. “1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure.” American Association of University Professors. <https://www.aaup.org/report/1940-statement-principles-academic-freedom-and-tenure>.
3. “Pro-Palestinian views face suppression in US amid Israel-Hamas war.” Chris McGreal. October 21, 2023. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/oct/21/israel-hamas-conflict-palestinian-voices-censored>