



Resolution F2024.05

Expanding Academic Freedom and Protection of Professional Standards for Counselors, Librarians, Learning Disability Specialists, and Psychologists Faculty

Moved: Steve Bautista

Seconded: Susan Hoang

Whereas, Academic freedom is foundational to the pursuit of diverse knowledge, inquiry, and the proper functioning of community colleges, ensuring that all faculty are free to teach, research, and engage in discourse without undue restriction or censorship, as outlined in the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Academic Freedom and Equity resolution;

Whereas, Academic freedom needs to expand to include the right of other academic and service faculty to freedom of expression as citizens in their areas of expertise, with the understanding that they are obliged to uphold professional standards and responsibilities; Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has passed multiple resolutions in support of academic freedom, including the resolution on Legislative and Systemic Support for Academic Freedom, which recognizes the need for broad-based protections for all faculty, including those in non-instructional roles, emphasizing the integral position they play in maintaining a high-quality educational environment;

Whereas, The lack of explicit inclusion of counselors, librarians, learning disability specialists, and psychologists faculty under traditional definitions of academic freedom leaves these professionals vulnerable to potential overreach, limitations on their professional autonomy, and encroachments on their ability to advocate for the needs of students (e.g. undermining the ability of psychologists to practice in accordance with clinical training and ethical/legal standards of their state licensing body etc.), especially in cases where their professional responsibilities intersect with the administrative mandates, institutional policies, and governance;

Resolved, that Rancho Santiago Community College District formally expand its interpretation concerning academic freedom in Board Policy 4030 and Administrative Regulation 4030 to explicitly include counselors, librarians, learning disability specialists, and psychologists faculty, recognizing their unique and essential roles in the academic community, and ensuring they are provided the same protections as instructional faculty under academic freedom provisions;

Resolved, That Santa Ana College Academic Senate affirm the importance of protecting professional standards and the autonomy of counselors, librarians, learning disability specialists, and psychologist faculty, ensuring that their expertise and professional



judgment in their respective fields are respected and upheld, free from internal/external pressure or censorship through advocacy and support when needed.

Resolved, that the Santa Ana College Academic Senate recommends updating Board Policy 4030 and Administrative Regulation 4030 to expand the current language to specifically include, but not be limited to, Non-Traditional Teaching Faculty such as counselors, librarians, learning disability specialists, and psychologists.

Date Presented: October 22, 2024

Date Approved: November 26, 2024

References:

1. University of California Academic Personnel Manual, APM-011. [Accessed from <https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/academic-personnel-policy/policy-issuances-and-guidelines/apm-011-issuance.html>].
2. Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, Resolution on Legislative and Systemic Support for Academic Freedom. [Accessed from <https://www.asccc.org/resolutions/legislative-and-systemic-support-academic-freedom>].
3. Academic Senate for California community Colleges, Resolution on Academic Freedom and Equity. [Accessed from <https://www.asccc.org/content/academic-freedom-and-equity>].