

Resolution Regarding Reporting Form

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Whereas: the foundation of any research university is the creation and free exchange of knowledge, principles reflected in the tenure system and, in the University of California, through guarantees of academic freedom (APM 010); and

Whereas: both APM 010 and the AAUP 1940 statement on academic freedom affirm that faculty have a basic right to teach our subjects as we see fit; and

Whereas: such rights safeguard the ability to change the material and/or the sequence of activities in our courses in order to respond to emergent circumstances; and

Whereas: in a social/cultural/political moment when discourse is highly fractured and fractious, it is increasingly challenging to create learning environments in which everyone can speak freely to discuss a wealth of subjects and to address a range of different perspectives; and

Whereas: the February 7, 2020, Public Affairs communication titled “Unsanctioned strike by some graduate students” contains a “Notification of Class and Section Disruption” Google form accessible through the notify the campus hotlink; and

Whereas: the Senate was not consulted in the creation of this reporting mechanism or notified regarding the subsequent duplication of the reporting mechanism in Canvas; and

Whereas: a mechanism for reporting “class and section disruption” only exacerbates fractious and fractured rhetoric, creates campus and classroom climates that inhibit academic freedom, and ultimately undermines the core mission and values of the University of California and UCSC; and

Whereas: the free exchange of knowledge—the very cornerstone of the university—is compromised when everyone in our community is encouraged to surveil and report on conversations occurring in the course of instruction; and

Whereas: students already can and do voice their experiences and concerns through processes such as grievance procedures and student evaluations, processes that have been designed via channels of shared governance to consider such student input, both positive and negative, in a careful and deliberate way that helps safeguard academic freedom; therefore be it

Resolved: that the Senate advises the Chancellor and the Interim Executive Vice Chancellor to disable the links to the reporting form in university announcements and on Canvas, refuse to allow the use of any data collected through these mechanisms as grounds for disciplinary measures against any faculty or students, and destroy all copies

of any data collected via the Google form or through Canvas; and be it further

Resolved: that any future proposal to monitor the content or delivery of classes must go through the proper Senate channels.

Respectfully submitted;
Gail Hershatter, History