

RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEWIDE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

WHEREAS, the Associated Students, CSUF, Inc. (ASI) is the representative voice for over 34,000 students at California State University, Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, over the past month, groups of college students throughout the state of California have mobilized and participated in non-violent demonstrations to voice their concerns over the rising costs of tuition throughout California, as well as express their frustration in relation to other economic and social injustices that have become increasingly relevant throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2011 students at the University of California, Berkeley, were met with excessive police force as they were struck brutally with police batons while attempting to establish a peaceful encampment on Sproul Plaza, resulting in several injuries and over 40 student arrests; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2011 students at the University of California, Davis, were pepper sprayed while peacefully seated with arms linked, protesting the economic inequalities facing California students; and

WHEREAS, both incidents have sent shock waves throughout California, the higher education community, and the nation, marking a disturbing new trend of police aggression and violence against peaceful forms of democratic expression that are so deeply engrained in the traditions of our universities and the landscape of American freedom; and

WHEREAS, the importance of free and open political expression on university campuses can be seen in the progress made by student activists in the Civil Rights Movement, as well as the push to bring an end to the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the significance of such expression was further displayed on our very own campus, beginning Nov 15, 2011, where hundreds of students gathered in the Central Quad to protest the proposed tuition increases and stand in solidarity with students who were victimized during the aforementioned student movements; and

WHEREAS, these forms of political thought and expression create the atmosphere that is not only important but essential in order for universities to continue to serve as a hub for positive forms of dissent and protest, which cultivate visions of change and progress; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the ASI Board of Directors supports the longstanding traditions of non-violent political expression on university campuses, and defends the rights of students to express themselves freely and non-violently, without violence or the threat of violence on behalf of university police; and be it further

2011, November 16. Shooting Occurs at UC Berkley during protests. *USA Today*.

Retrieved from <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-11-15/university-of-california-berkeley-shooting/51223386/1>

2011, November 21. Hundreds of UC Davis students protests pepper-spraying by police. *New York Times Online*.

Retrieved from <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/11/uc-davis-protest-police-pepper-spray.html>

RESOLVED, that the ASI Board of Directors condemns any and all deployment of violence by university officials against members of the University community who are participating in peaceful forms of political expression; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ASI Board of Directors urge President Gordon and other university administrators to publicly commit to making our university a safe location for peaceful public assembly and implement and uphold policies that reflect this commitment; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to President Milton Gordon, Acting Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Silas Abrego, CSUF Academic Senate, CSU Associated Student Presidents, the California State Student Association, the University of California Student Association.

Adopted by the ASI Board of Directors on the twenty-ninth day of November, two thousand and eleven

Christopher Labrot
ASI Secretary/Treasurer

Eric Niu
ASI President & CEO

Aissa Canchola
AI Board of Directors Chair

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