



**Resolution 2024.3.1 – Calling on the San Diego Community College District to reaffirm their commitment to the protection of freedom of free speech and academic freedom in the face of censorship around Palestinian discourse: Moreno**

Mover: Crocitti  
Second: Katungi

**Whereas** faculty and students in a social-justice and equity-focused district have a responsibility to denounce human rights abuses and injustices of colonization. The San Diego Community College District affirmed in its Nov 6, 2023 Resolution Recognizing Native American Heritage Month<sup>1</sup> it “is committed to building a diverse and accessible environment that fosters intellectual and social advancement for all students and employees, educating all our community members about Indigenous histories and culture, and examining and taking action to address the injustices of colonization and occupation.” The resolution also affirmed that it, “recognizes Indigenous peoples, who were the first inhabitants of this land, have and continue to be subjected to colonial structures of oppression resulting in the death of millions of Indigenous people, land dispossession, language and culture loss, diminished cultural knowledge and authority, and has long standing impacts that Indigenous communities face today.” According to the district’s logic, recognizing Indigenous people and criticizing colonial structures<sup>2</sup>, which includes the current Indigenous Palestinian experience, is imperative to our district’s values and mission.

**Whereas** efforts around the nation have successfully silenced<sup>3</sup> students and faculty on college campuses around the nation for speaking in support of the Palestinian people in the name of anti-Semitism despite the state of Israel not representing Judaism or Jewish people. As many scholars<sup>4</sup> and credible publications<sup>5</sup>, as well as organizations such as Jewish Voices for Peace<sup>6</sup>, have argued, anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitic<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> “The Board of Trustees of the San Diego Community College District recognizes November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month” [https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/sdccc/Board.nsf/files/CZY26W00B5DC/\\$file/Signed%20SDCCD%20Resolution%20Recognizing%20NAHM.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/sdccc/Board.nsf/files/CZY26W00B5DC/$file/Signed%20SDCCD%20Resolution%20Recognizing%20NAHM.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> “Commission of Inquiry finds that the Israeli occupation is unlawful under international law” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/commission-inquiry-finds-israeli-occupation-unlawful-under-international-law>

<sup>3</sup> “The Importance of Defending the Free Speech Rights of Pro-Palestinian Students in Florida” [https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/defending-free-speech-students-justice-palestine-florida#:~:text=R%20actions%20by%20Florida%20officials.in%20Palestine%20\(SJP\)%20chapters](https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/defending-free-speech-students-justice-palestine-florida#:~:text=R%20actions%20by%20Florida%20officials.in%20Palestine%20(SJP)%20chapters).

<sup>4</sup> “A Dangerous Conflation: An open letter from Jewish writers” <https://www.nplusemag.com/online-only/online-only/a-dangerous-conflation/?affid=x> <sup>5</sup> “On Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism. A ‘non-Jewish’ Jewish perspective” <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/antisemitism-palestine-israel-gaza/>

<sup>6</sup> “On Antisemitism, Anti-Zionism and Dangerous Conflations” <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/2023/11/09/antisemitism-dangerous/> <sup>7</sup> “The Jerusalem Declaration On Antisemitism” <https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>

**Whereas** any such event or class that uses any of the following phrases: “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free”, “genocide”, or “settler colonialism” shall not be censored or indefinitely postponed, with the Academic Senate denouncing any such attempts. The first phrase is a popular rallying cry<sup>8</sup> for Palestinian liberation, in the context<sup>9</sup> of the illegal occupation<sup>10</sup> of Palestine by the Israeli state, and is generally understood by activists as a call for freedom for Palestinians living under occupation. Similar to the way that Black Lives Matter seeks to address the disproportionate impact of institutional racism on Black people, “from the river to the sea” seeks to address the impact of Israeli occupation on Palestinian people and does not imply that Jewish or Israeli individuals should not also be free to live peacefully in the region nor should face anti-semitic, hateful acts abroad.

**Whereas** faculty reserve the right to teach material that is critical of Israel’s colonialist policies<sup>11</sup> and any governments that engage in human rights violations. For instance, AFT passed a resolution titled

**“Calling for a Bilateral Cease-Fire in Gaza and Promoting a Two-State Solution and an End to the Weaponization of Hate”**<sup>12</sup> stating, “We will defend the rights of educators and their students to participate in intellectually honest discussions, to articulate and rally around their views, including the underlying conflict between Israel and Palestine. Moreover, we will not tolerate the weaponization of academic discourse to be used in political attacks on American colleges and universities, and as a pretext for attacks on efforts to increase diversity, promote equity and advance inclusion. Our campuses must be places of dialogue for the furtherance of understanding in a pluralistic society. Teachers and students must be free to express different views on the burning issues of the day, without fear of loss of position and retaliation, and without intimidation and threats of violence.”

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<sup>8</sup> “‘From The River To The Sea’ Doesn’t Mean What You Think It Means”

<https://forward.com/opinion/415250/from-the-river-to-the-sea-doesnt-mean-what-you-think-it-means/>

<sup>9</sup> “Study on the Legality of the Israeli Occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem”

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ceirpp-legal-study2023/>

<sup>10</sup> “Commission of Inquiry finds that the Israeli occupation is unlawful under international law” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/commission-inquiry-finds-israeli-occupation-unlawful-under-international-law>

<sup>11</sup> “Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-granting-independence-colonial-countries-and-peoples>

<sup>12</sup> “Calling for a Bilateral Cease-Fire in Gaza and Promoting a Two-State Solution and an End to the Weaponization of Hate” <https://www.aft.org/resolution/calling-bilateral-cease-fire-gaza-and-promoting-two-state-solution-and-end-weaponization>

**Whereas** the ASCCC, as “the official voice of California community college faculty in academic and professional matters”<sup>13</sup> released a report<sup>14</sup> on the issue of academic freedom, stating that the definition of academic freedom be based on the American Association of University Professors’ (AAUP) definition which states “that the privilege and responsibility of academic freedom guarantees faculty ‘freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject,’ ‘full freedom of research and in the publication of the results,’ and the freedom from ‘institutional censorship or discipline’ in their extramural speech.”<sup>15</sup> The report also states that “a faculty divided against itself undermines academic and professional standards, impairs working conditions, and damages the educational integrity of the institution.”<sup>16</sup>

**Be it resolved** that the Mesa College Academic Senate President, as well as faculty, stop efforts to censor any discussion around Palestine on our campus and reaffirm the Academic Senate’s commitment to the protection of academic freedom and freedom of speech<sup>17</sup> as stated in BP 3900 and the ASCCC Position Paper “Protecting the Future of Academic Freedom During a Time of Significant Change.”

**Be it resolved** that Mesa College administrators also stop efforts to censor any discussion around Palestine on our campus and reaffirm the Academic Senate’s commitment to the protection of academic freedom and freedom of speech<sup>18</sup> as stated in BP 3900 and the ASCCC Position Paper “Protecting the Future of Academic Freedom During a Time of Significant Change.”

**Be it resolved** that there will be no silencing or censoring for critiquing the Israeli apartheid<sup>19</sup> state<sup>20</sup> and its ongoing genocide<sup>21</sup> against Palestinians.

**Be it resolved** that the San Diego Community College District reject the dangerous conflation of support for Palestine with anti-Semitism, and stand against racism and human rights violations in all of its forms.

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<sup>13</sup> Academic Senate for California Community Colleges <https://www.asccc.org/>

<sup>14</sup> ASCCC Position Paper “Protecting the Future of Academic Freedom During a Time of Significant Change” [https://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/Academic\\_Freedom\\_F20.pdf](https://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/Academic_Freedom_F20.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> ASCCC Position Paper, Page 1.

<sup>16</sup> ASCCC Position Paper, Page 11.

<sup>17</sup> BP 3900 – Posting And Distribution Of Literature, Political Activities, Free Speech And Freedom Of Expression On Campus And District Sites [https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/sdccc/Board.nsf/files/CUHUTP7B89D9/\\$file/BP%203900.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/sdccc/Board.nsf/files/CUHUTP7B89D9/$file/BP%203900.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> BP 3900 – Posting And Distribution Of Literature, Political Activities, Free Speech And Freedom Of Expression On Campus And District Sites [https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/sdccc/Board.nsf/files/CUHUTP7B89D9/\\$file/BP%203900.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/sdccc/Board.nsf/files/CUHUTP7B89D9/$file/BP%203900.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> “Israel’s occupation of Palestinian Territory is ‘apartheid’: UN rights expert” <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114702>

<sup>20</sup> “A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid”

[https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101\\_this\\_is\\_apartheid](https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid)

<sup>21</sup> “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)”

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-sum-01-00-en.pdf>

Presented to the SDMC AS: March 4, 2024

Approved by the SDMC AS: March 18, 2024

The votes are delineated on the following page:

### Resolution 2024.3.1 Vote Delineation

March 18, 2024

	MEMBER		Approve	Disapprove	Abstain	
1	Carlynnne	Allbee	1			
2	Isaac	Arguelles-Ibarra			1	
3	Lisa	Burgert	1			
4	Janna	Braun				EXCUSED
5	Michael	Brewer		1		
6	Henry	Browne	1			
7	Jennifer	Cost	1			
8	John	Crocitti	1			
9	Nellie	Dougherty	1			
10	Justin	Estep			1	
11	Veronica	Gerace	1			Proxy to Mayasa
12	Helen	Greenbergs		1		
13	Mary	Gwin			1	
14	James	Hinton	1			
15	Andrew	Hoffman				Does not cast a vote
16	Alex	Holowicki		1		
17	Cathy	James	1			
18	Geoff	Johnson	1			
19	Janue	Johnson	1			Proxy to Burgert
20	Candace	Katungi	1			
21	Jesse	Keller	1			
22	Mariam	Kushkaki	1			
23	Emmett "Chip"	Lancaster				Excused
24	Sam	Lee			1	
25	Laura	Maki				Excused
26	Thekima	Mayasa	1			
27	Dina	Miyoshi			1	
28	Ryan	Mongelluzzo	1			
29	Jennifer	Moreno	1			
30	Jill	Moreno Ikari			1	
31	Katherine	Naimark		1		
32	Olga	Pilipets				Absent
33	Scott	Plambek	1			
34	Alison	Primoza	1			
35	Anthony	Reuss	1			
36	Michelle	Rodriguez	1			
37	Saloua	Saidane			1	Proxy to Sardo
38	Robert	Sanchez	1			
39	Jessica	Sardo			1	
40	Kristian	Secor	1			
41	Judy	Sundayo	1			
42	George	Svoboda		1		
43	Ngoc "Kim"	Tran	1			
44	Karen	Wait			1	
		39	25	5	9	