

Resolution to Reaffirm the CSU-Fort Collins Commitment to Academic Freedom

Whereas, state legislative and university board proposals are being introduced and enacted across the United States to restrict academic curricula, processes, discussion, and research related to racism, sexism, and other issues in schools, colleges and universities.

Whereas, the pursuit of truth and knowledge can only occur by fostering open dialogue that engages multiple viewpoints, and addresses controversial, uncomfortable, and complicated theories and ideas.

Whereas, the histories of the U.S. and other democracies show the dangers when academic freedoms are violated and teachers are persecuted.

Whereas, Colorado State University recognizes academic freedom as “a longstanding cornerstone of public higher education” (Preface to the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual of Colorado State University).

Whereas, Colorado State University protects the “freedom of the faculty to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression, to speak or write on matters of public concern ...” (Preface to the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual of Colorado State University)

Whereas, “all faculty members shall have the academic freedom enjoyed by tenured faculty members, regardless of the type of appointment” (Section E.1 of the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual of Colorado State University).

Whereas, protecting academic freedom is a key responsibility of the University Administration (Section E.8.2 of the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual of Colorado State University).

Be it resolved, that the Faculty Council resolutely rejects any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to dictate academic curricula, processes, discussions, or research on any matter, including matters related to race, gender, and social justice, and will stand firm against encroachment by the Federal or State governments, the CSU Board of Governors, or University donors.

Be it further resolved, that the Faculty Council calls upon the CSU President and Chancellor of the CSU system to reject any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate academic discussion and research on any matter and will stand firm against encroachment on faculty authority by the legislature or the Board of Governors.

Be it further resolved, that the Faculty Council stands with our K-12 colleagues throughout the country who may be affected by external restrictions on how they seek to educate students.

Be it further resolved, that the Faculty Council of Colorado State University affirms the [Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism](#), authored by the AAUP, PEN America, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, endorsed by 150 organizations, and issued on June 16, 2021.