

Resolution  
On Community Oversight of the University Police Department

- WHEREAS,** In June 2020, the Cal Poly Pomona Academic Senate passed the resolution, [“Cal Poly Pomona’s Commitment to Anti-Racism.”](#)<sup>1</sup> which states: “We must create safe campus environments for racialized faculty, students, and staff on our campuses, where we immediately respond to systemic and individual cases of racism and its various manifestations in higher education;” and
- WHEREAS,** On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a Black veteran Cal Poly Pomona student (henceforth referred to as The Student) published an open letter, [“I Reported a Crime and Ended Up Being Accused of One.”](#)<sup>2</sup> about his negative experience with the Cal Poly Pomona University Police Department (UPD), and this experience was later reported in part four of the [“My Story Matters”](#)<sup>3</sup> series published by the *Poly Post*; and
- WHEREAS,** In the open letter and *Poly Post* story, The Student alleges that, after reporting fraudulent spending on his credit card to UPD, he was accused by UPD of having stolen his own identity and reporting it in an attempt to defraud his bank and later visited at his South Los Angeles home by UPD in May 2020, where he was accused of falsifying a police report, interrogated, and threatened by UPD; and
- WHEREAS,** The Student documented and reported this experience to multiple campus resources in May 2020, including the Division of Student Affairs, and received no response to his repeated attempts to report his treatment by UPD;<sup>4</sup> and
- WHEREAS,** The Division of Student Affairs confirmed that The Student “did not receive a timely response” in an email with the subject line “This is not okay. We will do better.” sent to the entire campus community on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021; and
- WHEREAS,** On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, ten months after registering his complaints, The Student “received a summons from the District Attorney to appear concerning [his] violation of PC 148.5(a), filing a false police report,” without being contacted by UPD, the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of Student Conduct and Integrity, or any other administrative office of Cal Poly Pomona over the course of those ten months;<sup>5</sup> and
- WHEREAS,** There is evidence of a broader pattern of reported racialized discrimination at CPP,<sup>6</sup> which includes similar situations that may not have been reported; and
- WHEREAS,** The failure of Cal Poly Pomona to respond to The Student’s repeated attempts to report his experience indicates a lack of accountability for and meaningful campus oversight of UPD, and this failure also fits into a pattern of students reporting that they have no meaningful avenue for reporting racial discrimination on campus;<sup>7</sup> and
- WHEREAS,** The Academic Senate’s stated commitment, cited above, to provide a safe campus environment for racialized students demands that we take concern in reported patterns of racial discrimination and “immediately respond” to discriminatory practices; and therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate calls on the entire campus community to support the work of the [Police Advisory Task Force](#)<sup>8</sup> and push forward with [“Our Commitment to Action”](#)<sup>9</sup> through [Cal Poly Pomona Inclusive Excellence](#);<sup>10</sup> and be it also
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate calls for the Police Advisory Board being designed by the Police Advisory Task Force to be formed with meaningful oversight capabilities, bestowed with advisory power for reviewing and changing UPD policy and practice, and comprised of individuals from multiple campus constituencies outside of the Division of Student Affairs and UPD, such as Cal Poly Pomona students, staff, and faculty; and be it also
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate calls on the Division of Student Affairs and UPD, in consultation with the Police Advisory Task Force, to immediately implement a meaningful and transparent reporting process for complaints against UPD that goes beyond meeting the minimal legal requirements set forth in the [California Penal Code section 832.5](#)<sup>11</sup> and to post information about this process in multiple public and prominent places (for example, the websites of the Division of Student Affairs, UPD, and other administrative offices); and be it also
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate calls on the working committees and administrative officials carrying out “Our Commitment to Action” to pay special attention to the places in which the University exercises direct institutional power, as in the case of University policing, over our students and to demand immediate change on policies that render students of color even more vulnerable to abuses of institutional power; and be it also
- RESOLVED,** The Academic Senate commends UPD for pledging<sup>12</sup> to implement the recommendations of [The President’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing](#), reported to President Barack Obama in May 2015,<sup>13</sup> and calls on UPD to make public their plan and timeline for implementing these recommendations, which include (among many others):
- Ensuring “some form of civilian oversight of law enforcement” (Recommendation 2.8)
  - Developing and adopting “policies and strategies that reinforce the importance of community engagement in managing public safety” (Recommendation 4.1)
  - Engaging “community members in the training process” (Recommendation 5.2)
- RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to: President of Cal Poly Pomona Dr. Soraya M. Coley and her Cabinet; the University Police Department and Police Chief Dario Robinson; Cal Poly Pomona Division of Student Affairs; Cal Poly Pomona Office of Equity and Compliance; Cal Poly Pomona Staff Council; Cal Poly Pomona Human Resources; President of Cal Poly Pomona ASI; the California State Student Association; and the *Poly Post*.

Adopted by the Academic Senate of California State  
Polytechnic University, Pomona, on  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021

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Phyllis Nelson, Chair  
Academic Senate

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- <sup>1</sup> Available at: [https://www.cpp.edu/senate/documents/resolutions/resolution\\_anti-racism\\_final.pdf](https://www.cpp.edu/senate/documents/resolutions/resolution_anti-racism_final.pdf).
  - <sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://lastpagekillsreader.medium.com/i-reported-a-crime-and-ended-up-being-accused-of-one-366388d41422>.
  - <sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://thepolypost.com/news/2021/03/09/my-story-matters-a-student-voice-series-4/>.
  - <sup>4</sup> "My Story Matters;" available at: <https://thepolypost.com/news/2021/03/09/my-story-matters-a-student-voice-series-4/>.
  - <sup>5</sup> "I Reported a Crime and Ended Up Being Accused of One;" available at: <https://lastpagekillsreader.medium.com/i-reported-a-crime-and-ended-up-being-accused-of-one-366388d41422>.
  - <sup>6</sup> "Students Protest Racial Profiling on Campus," *Poly Post*, available at: <https://thepolypost.com/news/2019/11/26/students-protest-racial-profiling-on-campus/>.
  - <sup>7</sup> "Students Protest Racial Profiling on Campus," *Poly Post*, available at: <https://thepolypost.com/news/2019/11/26/students-protest-racial-profiling-on-campus/>.
  - <sup>8</sup> See: <https://www.cpp.edu/student-affairs/patf.shtml>
  - <sup>9</sup> See: <https://www.cpp.edu/president/from-the-president/2020-summer/our-commitment-to-action.shtml>
  - <sup>10</sup> See: <https://www.cpp.edu/inclusive-excellence/commitment-to-action/index.shtml>.
  - <sup>11</sup> Available at: [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&sectionNum=832.5](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&sectionNum=832.5).
  - <sup>12</sup> "CSU Police Chiefs Pledge to Implement Recommendations from President Obama's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing;" available at: <https://www2.calstate.edu/csusystem/news/Pages/CSU-Police-Chiefs-Pledge-to-Implement-Recommendations-from-The-Presidents-Task-Force-on-21st-Century-Policing.aspx>.
  - <sup>13</sup> Full report available at: [https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce\\_finalreport.pdf](https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf).