

## California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

### Sense of the Senate Resolution, In Support of Academic Freedom and Solidarity with Iranian Women — “Woman, Life, Freedom” -- University Communities, and International Students<sup>i</sup>

- Whereas**, On September 16, 2022, the death of Mahsa Zhina Amini, the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman who was brutally beaten and later died at the hands of Iran’s morality police for what the police deemed to be "improper clothing", sparked mobilizations in expression of solidarity by courageous Iranian women and girls who raised their voices and risked their lives for human rights and freedom united under the rallying cry, “Woman, Life, Freedom;” and
- Whereas**, The public outcry and peaceful protests have been met with violence by the state with over two hundred people now killed and over 14,000 people arrested in the protests; and
- Whereas**, [CNN](#) and the [Guardian](#) reported that students at university campuses across Iran were violently attacked and arrested by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps because they organized walkouts, sit-ins, and other supportive protest actions; and
- Whereas**, The Iranian diaspora has been present in multiple regions of North America and California is home to one of the largest communities of Iranians and Iranian Americans outside of Iran; and
- Whereas**, Cal Poly Pomona is a university that honors social justice, equality, diversity, inclusion, and respect of the rights of women and students; and
- Whereas**, **On October 17, 2022, President Coley issued a statement** in Solidarity with the women of Iran and for the rights of women across the globe, stating that *“As an institution committed to equity and justice, Cal Poly Pomona joins universities around the world in expressing solidarity with the women of Iran and for the rights of women across the globe. Through this expression of unity, we affirm the dignity inherent in each of us and recognize the sacrifices made by all those fighting for freedom and against oppression;”* and
- Whereas**, The current situation has impacted international students from Iran as well as Iranian American students, faculty and staff and has caused fear, anxiety, trauma, and distress within and beyond the academic context; and
- Whereas**, Almost all international students from Iran have long been away from their home country with restrictions to travel back --for reasons including prosecution in Iran and barriers to re-entering the US-- and the internet has been their main form of communication with family and friends in Iran; and
- Whereas**, Cal Poly Pomona is home to Iranian and Iranian American communities that are diverse in racial and ethnic representation, religious affiliation, generations in the U.S., and linguistic and cultural heritage; therefore, be it
- Resolved**, That the Cal Poly Pomona community stands in solidarity with the global movement for women’s rights and with the people in Iran, and especially with the women and girls who raise their voices with courage in demand of human rights, justice, and freedom; and be it further
- Resolved**, That Cal Poly Pomona honors and supports the students throughout Iran’s universities and schools, as well as the scholars, journalists, and nations who are involved in the movement for the human rights of all citizens; and be it further
- Resolved**, That the Cal Poly Pomona faculty, staff, and administration support international students from Iran by making themselves available to meet regarding their concerns, identify support mechanisms, and help them find resources to navigate the impacts of current protests in Iran and state violence on their educational achievements; and be it further
- Resolved**, That the Academic Senate at Cal Poly Pomona encourages faculty to enact and communicate their flexibility, understanding, and support for all impacted students; and be it further
- Resolved**, That this resolution be immediately sent as a campus wide announcement so that the entire campus community can offer support and solidarity during this time of unrest in Iran; and be further
- Resolved**, That this resolution be distributed to the President of Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Chancellor’s Office (CO), CSU Board of Trustees, Academic Senate of the CSU (ASCSU), CSU Campus Senate Chairs, California Faculty Association (CFA) Statewide President, CFA Cal Poly Pomona Chapter President, California State Student Association, ASI President of Cal Poly Pomona, California U.S. Senators, Regional U.S. Congressional Representatives for Districts, and California State legislators.

Unanimously Adopted by the Academic Senate of  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
on Wednesday, November 9, 2022



Nicholas Von Glahn, Chair  
Academic Senate

<sup>i</sup> The authors of this resolution wish to express gratitude to San Jose State University Academic Senate and the Senate at Cal Poly Humboldt who passed similar resolutions at their campuses.