

The Academic Senate of Diablo Valley College
Resolution to Reaffirm Commitment to Academic Freedom
August 28, 2018

Whereas, in accordance with the American Association of University Professors, academic freedom is the central principle of governance for all institutions of higher education (AAUP, 1940 Statement on Academic Freedom);

Whereas, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has a long history of defending the practice of academic freedom for faculty and other constituencies on its campuses (13.01, spring 2002);

Whereas, the Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board (CCCCD) has affirmed faculty's academic freedom (Board Policy 2018);

Whereas, the CCCCDD Governing Board has affirmed the college and district responsibility to defend its students from actions that might deny them equitable access to their education (Resolution S1);

Whereas, politically motivated attacks on the expertise of professors across the nation and against CCCCDD faculty have increased with the intent of stifling critical dialogue on teaching and learning;

Whereas, faculty and students engaged in pedagogical matters of race, class, gender, LGBTQ+ studies have become particular targets of groups, individuals, donors and legislators, some with political motivations, negatively impacting the teaching and learning of both faculty and students from marginalized populations;

Whereas, at Diablo Valley College, faculty, staff and administration have been and are currently targets of these groups;

Whereas, coordinated assaults on the integrity of intellectual production of knowledge and teaching will continue to increase if colleges and universities do not defend academic freedom;

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Diablo Valley College denounces attempts by any external political groups or individuals, donors or lobbyists to influence our college administration, the CCCCDD Governing Board, or any legislative member or body to limit the expertise, pedagogy and academic freedom of our faculty; and

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Diablo Valley College reaffirms our commitment to and support of academic freedom, and will promote and endorse campus-wide dialog and education regarding this critical principle.