

Academic Senate Resolution
(as revised by the Faculty Legislature at its meeting of March 10, 2022)

TO: University of California, Santa Barbara Academic Senate
FROM: Academic Senate Committee on Diversity and Equity
RE: Resolution: Defending Academic Freedom to Teach About Race and Gender Justice and Critical Race Theory
Date: 03.10.2022

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS state legislative proposals are being introduced across the United States that target, undermine and/or prohibit academic discussions of racism, gender, sexuality, and related issues deemed “divisive” in American history in schools, colleges and universities.

WHEREAS the Academic Personnel Manual APM - 010, Academic Freedom and APM - 015, The Faculty Code of Conduct affirm the importance of academic freedom to the proper functioning of universities, citing the American Association of University Professors’ statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

WHEREAS faculty have responsibility for developing and teaching the curriculum at their universities, as stated in the Academic Personnel Manual.

WHEREAS the term “divisive” is indeterminate, subjective, and possibly limits the capacity of educators to explore a wide variety of topics based on subjective criteria that are inapposite from the goals of education and the development of essential critical thinking skills.

WHEREAS educating students about systemic barriers to realizing a multiracial democracy based on race and/or gender should be understood as central to the active and engaged pursuit of knowledge in the 21st century.

WHEREAS over seventy organizations, including the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU), issued the Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History (June 16, 2021) stating their “firm opposition to a spate of legislative proposals being introduced across the country that target academic lessons, presentations, and discussions of racism and related issues in American history in schools, colleges and universities . . . In higher education, under principles of academic freedom that have been widely endorsed, professors are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject. Educators, not politicians, should make decisions about teaching and learning.”

WHEREAS the University of California, Santa Barbara’s mission “is committed to promoting excellence through diversity and inclusiveness.”

WHEREAS Chancellor Henry Yang's June 18, 2020 statement on [Juneteenth](#) affirms the importance of racial and social justice.

WHEREAS Chancellor Henry Yang's March 19, 2021 [statement condemning Anti-Asian Racism and Violence](#) affirms the importance of racial and social justice.

WHEREAS in a nation that has for centuries struggled with issues of racial inequity and injustice, many students do not have adequate or accurate knowledge of gender/women's, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ histories, nor the policies that contributed to inequities, the University of California, Santa Barbara has a responsibility and opportunity to help educate in ways that address these knowledge gaps.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate resolutely rejects any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate university curriculum on any matter, including matters related to racial and social justice, and will stand firm against encroachment on faculty authority by the legislature or the Board of Regents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate stands with our K-12 colleagues and university colleagues throughout the country who may be affected by this pernicious legislation when they seek to teach about racial and social justice and injustice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate calls upon Chancellor Henry Yang and Executive Vice Chancellor David Marshall to affirm that they reject any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate university curriculum on any matter, including matters related to racial and social justice, and will stand firm against encroachment on faculty authority by the legislature or the Board of Regents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate affirms the [Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism](#), authored by the AAUP, PEN America, the American Historical Association, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, endorsed by over seventy organizations, and issued on June 16, 2021.

Background:

- Professors promote resolution on Academic Freedom (Inside Higher Ed, December 15, 2021) <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/12/15/professors-promote-resolution-academic-freedom>
- College faculty are fighting back against state bills on critical race theory (Washington Post, February 19, 2022) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/02/19/colleges-critical-race-theory-bill>
- Scholarly Groups Condemn Laws Limiting Teaching on Race (New York Times, June 16, 2021)
- Texas 'critical race theory' bill limiting teaching of current events signed into law (ABC13, June 16, 2021)
- Republicans Want Federal Funding Cuts to Schools Using '1619 Project'—But There's a Twist (Education Week, June 15, 2021)
- Critical race theory battle invades school boards — with help from conservative groups (NBC News, June 15, 2021)
- Teachers across the country protest laws restricting lessons on racism (Washington Post, June 12, 2021)
- 'Children deserve to be taught': Teachers in 22 cities are planning protests over laws restricting racism lessons in schools (USA Today, June 11, 2021)
- 'Critical Race Theory Is Simply the Latest Bogeyman.' Inside the Fight Over What Kids Learn About America's History (TIME Magazine, June 24, 2021)
- Uncovering Who Is Driving The Fight Against Critical Race Theory In Schools (LISTEN) (Fresh Air, June 24, 2021)
- How the media's helping GOP fuel critical race theory hysteria (Press Run, June 23, 2021)
- Critical race theory has been around for decades — why's it a powder keg now? (LISTEN) (Marketplace, June 22, 2021)
- VIDEO: Creator of term 'Critical Race Theory' Kimberlé Crenshaw explains what it really is (MSNBC/The Reid Out, June 21, 2021)
- VIDEO: The truth about 'critical race theory': co-founder breaks down GOP gaslight (MSNBC/The Medhi Hasan Show, June 20, 2021)
- Fox's anti-"critical race theory" parents are also GOP activists (Media Matters, June 17, 2021)
- Critical Race Theory: What It Means for America and Why It Has Sparked Debate (Wall Street Journal, June 17, 2021)
- Why are states lining up to ban critical race theory? (University World News, June 12, 2021)
- The New York Times' Culture-War Definition of Free Speech (Melissa Gira Grant, The New Republic, June 8, 2021)

- Guest Blog: Where Does the Bizarre Hysteria About ‘Critical Race Theory’ Come From? Follow the Money! (Inside Higher Ed, June 3, 2021)
- Opinion: Why Conservatives Really Fear Critical Race Theory (Christine Emba, The Washington Post, May 26, 2021)
- (VIDEO) What critical race theory is really about (CNN/Don Lemon Tonight, May 17, 2021)