

Associated Students, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #21-02

RESOLUTION TO DEFINE AND CONDEMN ANTISEMITISM

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly); and
- WHEREAS: In recent years, there has been a record spike in antisemitic attacks across the nation including, but not limited to: Kansas City Jewish community center shooting (2014), Charlottesville demonstration of white supremacists shouting “Jews will not replace us” (2017), Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue shooting (2018), Poway Chabad Synagogue shooting (2018), Jersey City shooting at a Kosher supermarket (2019), Monsey stabbing of five people in a rabbi’s home as they celebrated Hanukkah in an Orthodox Jewish community (2019), San Luis Obispo Anti-Semitic vandalism targeting Jewish fraternity house Alpha Epsilon Pi (2021)^{1,2}; and
- WHEREAS: These actions all took place amidst a national context where hate crimes against Jewish individuals and institutions account for 58% of all US anti-religious incidents and offenses, with Jews comprising only 2.1% of the United States population;^{3,4} and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly assumes fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural, and overall health of the communities it serves; and
- WHEREAS: Jewish students at Cal Poly constitute roughly 6% of both the graduate and undergraduate population⁵ and are an important part of the broader Cal Poly community, yet remain distinguishable from the majority by common ethnic and cultural characteristics;⁶ and
- WHEREAS: The Cal Poly Jewish community is thus a distinct and significant cultural and religious community within Cal Poly which ASI is charter-bound to support, protect, and defend; and
- WHEREAS: The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) defines antisemitism as “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;”⁷ and

1 <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/anti-semitism/antisemitism-in-the-us>

2 <https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resource-knowledge-base/adl-tracker-of-antisemitic-incidents>

3 <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2018/topic-pages/incidents-and-offenses>

4 <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-population-in-the-united-states-by-state>

5 <https://www.hillel.org/college-guide/list/record/california-polytechnic-state-university--san-luis-obispo>

6 <https://azjewishlife.com/how-can-jews-be-both-an-ethnic-group-and-a-religion/>

7 <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>

WHEREAS: The following universities have adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and resolution: University of California, Santa Barbara, University of California, San Diego, California State University, Northridge, Texas A&M University, Arizona State University, Foothill College, University of Manitoba Canada, City College of New York, Pace University, St. Lawrence University, Northeastern University, Brooklyn College

THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

Associated Students, Inc. unreservedly condemns all acts of racism, bigotry, and violence against the Jewish community, both on and off campus and stands by the Jewish community and condemns all acts of racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination against all members of the student body; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

ASI calls upon the Cal Poly Administration to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism listed above as Cal Poly's official definition of antisemitism;⁸ and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

This resolution be sent to University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong, Dean of Students Dr. Joy Pederson, and Interim Vice President for Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Denise Isom.

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 8th day of April 2021.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 7th day of April 2021.

Attest:

ASI Secretary

Signed:
ASI Chair of the Board

Signed:
ASI President

Authored By:

Jordan Roth, College of Liberal Arts
Jenny Jacobs, MS Student in Higher Education Counseling & Student Affairs

⁸ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>