

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

Resolution #23-02

ASI Board of Directors Stance on the Tenure Retreat of Former California State University (CSU) Chancellor Joseph I. Castro to Cal Poly

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo, and
- WHEREAS: Joseph I. Castro resigned from his position as CSU Chancellor in February 2022<sup>1</sup> due to the impacts of his highly publicized mishandling of sexual misconduct claims against former California State University, Fresno vice president of student affairs Frank Lamas while former Chancellor Castro was president of that university<sup>2</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: The Wegner Report, released on September 29, 2022, held him responsible for failing to adequately address the “Lamas” case and for continuing to support Lamas during his tenure as vice president of student affairs amid such allegations of misconduct<sup>3</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: When announcing his resignation, former Chancellor Castro stated, “it has become clear to me that resigning at this time is necessary so that the CSU can maintain its focus squarely on its educational mission”<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly administration announced in late September 2022 that former Chancellor Castro had decided to exercise his retreat rights as a tenured professor of leadership and public policy in the Orfalea College of Business at Cal Poly<sup>2,4</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: The Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno passed a declaration of no confidence in former Chancellor Castro to exercise retreat rights to enter the professoriate of the CSU in April 2022<sup>2,5</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: In November 2022, the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo passed a resolution criticizing former Chancellor Castro’s decision, saying “the Academic Senate calls on Dr. Castro to abort his retreat into the tenured faculty at Cal Poly”<sup>2</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: The Cal Poly Annual Security Report from 2022 details 46 reported instances of rape and 82 reported instances of stalking in the past three years on campus and in certain off campus locations<sup>6</sup>

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1 Chancellor Castro Resignation: <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/Dr-Joseph-I-Castro-Resigns-As-CSU-Chancellor.aspx>

2 Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Academic Senate Approved Resolution: <https://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/academicsenate/1/images/AS-948-22.pdf>

3 Wegner Report: <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Documents/CSU%20Report%20%289-29-22%29.pdf>

4 Chronicle of Higher Education: <https://www-chronicle-com.ezproxy.lib.calpoly.edu/article/investigation-finds-former-cal-state-chancellor-had-a-blind-spot-for-an-abusive-colleague>

5 CSU Fresno Academic Senate Approved Resolutions: <https://academics.fresnostate.edu/senate/resolutions/index.html>

6 Campus Security Report: <https://afd.calpoly.edu/clery/reports/annual-security-report.pdf>

showing that Cal Poly is not immune to sexual violence and/or other forms of power based violence; and

WHEREAS: The Cal Poly Campus Community disagrees with the decision of former Chancellor Castro to exercise his retreat rights as evidenced by a petition on the matter that has received 1,152 signatures as of November 18, 2022 of students, faculty, staff and alumni expressing their voice against this decision<sup>7</sup>, and

THEREFORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The ASI Board of Directors calls on former Chancellor Castro to abandon his retreat into the tenured faculty at Cal Poly; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: In the case of former Chancellor Castro proceeding to use his retreat rights, the ASI Board of Directors recommends that he exercises his rights as a tenured professor while teaching in a minimal capacity with the student body of Cal Poly; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: If former Chancellor Castro chooses to exercise his right, the ASI Board of Directors urge that the courses taught by former Chancellor Castro be considered as “elective courses” and therefore not satisfy a Major or Support Requirement for any member of the student body; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: If former Chancellor Castro chooses to exercise his right, the ASI Board of Directors urge that there be availability of multiple sections and alternate professors to allow the student body greater ability of choice; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: If former Chancellor Castro chooses to exercise his right, the ASI Board of Directors urge that his courses and instructor title be properly displayed within the course registry process to expand transparency for the student body; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: In the event of former Chancellor Castro becomes a tenured member of faculty at Cal Poly, Cal Poly administration shall not overlook the potential negative impacts this move could have on survivors of sexual violence and the Cal Poly community as a whole; the well-being of students throughout the CSU system shall continue to be at the forefront of decision-making; and

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<sup>7</sup> Cal Poly Student Petition:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=2wING578IUSVNx03nMoq5ykA25926SJKuf92zMw4RhURVRNV1MzTFVGN0g4Nki2T0haOVFTSDRYOC4u>

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: In the event of former Chancellor Castro becomes a tenured member of faculty at Cal Poly, the ASI Board of Directors urges the Cal Poly administration to expand upon campus resources for survivors of sexual and/or power based violence; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: ASI Board of Directors calls on Cal Poly Administration to make a statement to the student body, informing them of former Chancellor Castro’s decision to exercise his retreat rights; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution be sent to former Chancellor Joseph I. Castro; University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong; Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore; Dean of Orfalea College of Business Damon Fleming; Title IX Coordinator Maren Hufton; Vice President for Student Affairs Keith Humphrey; and Chair of the Academic Senate Thomas D. Gutierrez.

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 2 day of December 2022.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 30 day of November 2022.

Attest:

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ASI Secretary

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Signed:  
ASI Chair of the Board

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Signed:  
ASI President

Authored By:

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