

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

Resolution #25-06

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO FEBRUARY 14, 2025, DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER

- 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: The Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) upholds diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values, fostering an educational environment that ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all students¹, and
- WHEREAS: The February 14, 2025, Dear Colleague Letter issued by the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights seeks to limit race-conscious policies and programs in higher education by broadly interpreting the Supreme Court's decision in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*², and
- WHEREAS: The Dear Colleague Letter challenges diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives² and may result in the reduction or elimination of resources and opportunities aimed at supporting historically underrepresented and marginalized student populations, and
- WHEREAS: The restrictions outlined in the Dear Colleague Letter³ conflict with Cal Poly's and ASI's longstanding commitment to strengthening diversity, ensuring equitable treatment of students, and promoting inclusivity across campus⁴, and
- WHEREAS: The Cal Poly community "values a broad and inclusive campus learning experience [that embraces values of] free expression and respect for diversity"⁵, and policies discouraging DEI initiatives directly oppose these efforts, and
- WHEREAS: Limiting DEI programs and race-conscious policies disproportionately impacts students from historically disadvantaged communities, thereby exacerbating existing inequalities within higher education⁶, and
- WHEREAS: ASI believes that all students should have access to an inclusive and supportive educational environment that fosters success regardless of race, color, or national origin⁷, and

1 About ASI Website: <https://www.asi.calpoly.edu/discover-asi/about-asi/>

2 Dear Colleague Letter: <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/dear-colleague-letter-sffa-v-harvard-109506.pdf>

3 Dear Colleague Letter: <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/dear-colleague-letter-sffa-v-harvard-109506.pdf>

4 About ASI Website: <https://www.asi.calpoly.edu/discover-asi/about-asi/>

5 Cal Poly Catalog Commitment to Community: <https://catalog.calpoly.edu/universitypolicies/#commitmenttocommunity>

6 Impacts of ending DEI policies: <https://www.vox.com/policy/370854/affirmative-action-black-enrollment-universities-diversity-supreme-court?>

7 About ASI Website: <https://www.asi.calpoly.edu/discover-asi/about-asi/>

THEREFORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: That ASI formally opposes the February 14, 2025, Dear Colleague Letter and its attempts to undermine DEI initiatives within higher education, and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: That ASI urges Cal Poly University President Jeffrey Armstrong and the CSU Chancellor to uphold the mission of the California State University system and its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in both purpose and practice, and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: That ASI calls upon university leadership to continue supporting programs and policies that foster inclusivity, equitable treatment, and diversity across campus, and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to Cal Poly President Jeffrey Armstrong, the CSU Chancellor Mildred García, California State Student Association President Iese Esera, Academic Senate Chair Jerusha Greenwood, and the Cal Poly Office of University Diversity and Inclusion.

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 20th day of May 2025.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 14th day of May 2025.

Attest:

ASI Secretary

Signed:

ASI Chair of the Board

Signed:

ASI President

Authored By:

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