

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
University Senate

Resolution on Amendment to the Faculty Handbook Appendix P, "Academic Freedom"

13-20/21-FAC — December 1, 2020 — Second Reading

Resolved: That the University Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the President that the following policy on Academic Freedom be approved and added to the current Appendix P in the HSU Faculty Handbook.

Rationale: Appendix P of the HSU Faculty Handbook includes notes on Academic Freedom jointly developed by the American Association of University Professors and the American Association of Colleges, but does not state that those notes constitute the University's official policy of Academic Freedom. The WASC Senior College and University Commission Criteria for Review CFR1.3 states "The institution publicly states its commitment to academic freedom for faculty, staff, and students, and acts accordingly. This commitment affirms that those in the academy are free to share their convictions and responsible conclusions with their colleagues and students in their teaching and writing...The institution has published or has readily available policies on academic freedom. For those institutions that strive to instill specific beliefs and world views, policies clearly state how these views are implemented and ensure that these conditions are consistent with generally recognized principles of academic freedom. Due-process procedures are disseminated, demonstrating that faculty and students are protected in their quest for truth." And the notes published in the current version of Appendix P were written in 1940 and last updated in 1970, while in 2017 the Academic Senate of the California State University unanimously approved a Recommended Policy on Academic Freedom.