

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

University Senate

**Sense of the Senate Resolution to Drop Interim Suspensions
Against Student Protesters**

29-23/24-SenEx - May 14, 2024

WHEREAS: The University Senate recognizes the importance of free speech, including [symbolic speech](#), as a core value of higher education; and

WHEREAS: Cal Poly Humboldt has a long-standing culture of allowing students to express dissent through protest and symbolic speech, including sit-ins; and

WHEREAS: On April 22, 2024 the administration approved direct police action to remove students from Siemens Hall; and

WHEREAS: On April 22, 2024 the direct police action and subsequent violence led to physical injury of students and police; and

WHEREAS: On April 27, 2024 the administration enforced a hard closure of campus (with violators being subject to arrest) which persisted through the semester; and

WHEREAS: On May 7, 2024 University Senate passed a resolution calling for an investigation into the decision-making process that led to 69 students receiving interim suspensions; and

WHEREAS: Per Article VI of [Executive Order 1098](#) (p. 18), interim suspensions may be imposed by the president “where there is reasonable cause to believe that *separation of a Student is necessary* to protect the personal safety of persons within the University community or University Property, and to ensure the maintenance of order.” [emphasis added]; and

WHEREAS: In this case, because the university has closed campus to all – regardless of suspension or other disciplinary sanctions, there was no need for this use of emergency disciplinary action (interim suspension) to remove the sanctioned students from campus; and

WHEREAS: Other disciplinary sanctions can be used in cases where this emergency need to separate a student from campus is not necessary; and

WHEREAS: Students engaged in protest, and others using wifi in the vicinity who should not have been disciplined, were disciplined through interim suspensions; and

WHEREAS: These suspensions prohibited students from participating in activities and services and the accompanying prohibitions and hearings made things even more difficult for students to complete their course work and/or prepare to graduate; and

WHEREAS: Students with suspension letters reported they were unable to have questions answered and were unable to contact the departments involved with these suspensions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the University Senate asks the university to drop the interim suspensions against students involved in the protest; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be distributed to:

President Tom Jackson

Christina Holliday, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success

Mitch Mitchell, Dean of Students

Associated Students Executive Director Kendra Higgins

Staff Council

General Faculty