

**Humboldt State University  
University Senate**

**Resolution on Identification of Student Respondents to  
Online Teaching Evaluations**

Resolution #14-13/14-FAC - November 12, 2013 – Second Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Humboldt State University (Senate) requests that the Senior Associate Vice President (AVP) for Faculty Affairs-Human Resources and the California Faculty Association (CFA) HSU Chapter President (or designee) research and bring policy recommendations to the Faculty Affairs Committee regarding the conditions under which the institution would identify and take action regarding individual student respondents to teaching evaluations, as well as the systems and processes that would support the judicious implementation of such identification; and be it further

RESOLVED: That if the Senior AVP for Faculty Affairs-Human Resources and the CFA HSU Chapter President (or designee) find that current CSU/CFA policy inhibits HSU from moving ahead with such policy of student identification, the Senate requests that they immediately take actions to involve other necessary parties and initiate system-level change; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this report be returned to the Faculty Affairs Committee by April 1, 2014.

Rationale:

This resolution addresses concerns raised by the CFA and individual faculty members regarding communication norms in online forums and our ability to responsibly and judiciously respond. Some student comments raise serious concerns regarding student or faculty member behavior. The narratives of concern may be understood as hate speech, harassment, and threats to safety.

The Senate heard testimony at the October 29, 2013 meeting (see meeting minutes) from a faculty member who had experienced hate speech/sexual harassment via a student evaluation. This testimony highlighted the effects on campus and classroom climate due to the inaction (or restricted action taken) in such situations. Given other institutional efforts to address campus climate and inclusiveness, the current practices and/or policies prohibiting student identification are problematic and require immediate attention.

University Senate: Passed unanimously, 11/12/13

No further action required