

*Sequoias Community College District Academic Senate
Resolution to Affirm Academic Freedom and
Develop Formal Training on Faculty Evaluation*

September 27, 2023

WHEREAS, title 5 § 51023 directs that “[t]he governing board of a community college district shall adopt a policy statement on academic freedom...” --found locally in Sequoias Community College District Board Policy 4030, to “adopt procedures which are consistent with the provisions of sections 53200-53206 regarding the role of academic senate and faculty councils,” --found locally in Sequoias Community College District Administrative Procedure 4030, and to “substantially comply with district adopted policy and procedures adopted pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b)”;

WHEREAS, title 5 § 53203 (c) states: “While in the process of consulting collegially, the academic senate shall retain the right to meet with or to appear before the governing board with respect to the views, recommendations, or proposals of the senate”;

WHEREAS, title 5 § 52510 states: “‘Evaluation’ refers to a tool to provide and receive constructive feedback to promote professional growth and development”;

WHEREAS, In July 2021, the State of California Senate passed Senate Resolution 45 “declar[ing] that academic freedom is essential for teaching and learning in California’s community colleges”; and

WHEREAS, Sequoias Community College District Board of Trustees affirms, through Board Policy 4030, Academic Freedom, as the “freedom of inquiry and instruction for every faculty member, including freedom in presenting and discussing subjects related to his/her academic discipline”, “[a]ll faculty members shall be free to pursue instruction, grading, scholarship, policy discussions, and public discourse in an environment free of intimidation and censorship”, and that “[n]o faculty member shall be mistreated, disciplined, reassigned, or have his/her assignment terminated for any reason that violates the protections of this policy”;

RESOLVED, That the methods of instructional delivery used by an instructor are protected under Board Policy 4030 and should not be subject to negative evaluations based on evaluator preference;

RESOLVED, That the Sequoias Community College District Board of Trustees shall ensure that all administrators/evaluators “substantially comply” with Sequoias Community College District Board Policy 4030, per title 5 § 51023; and

RESOLVED, That the Sequoias Community College District Board of Trustees, or their designee, works with the Academic Senate to develop and implement formal training for conducting faculty evaluations to ensure that administrators/evaluators have a consistent understanding of how to evaluate faculty which aligns with Sequoias Community College District Board Policies and Administrative Procedures.