

## **Academic Senate Resolution Regarding a Safe Learning Environment**

WHEREAS: Pasadena City College welcomes and supports students without regard to their citizenship or immigration status and will continue to admit students in a manner that complies with our nondiscrimination policy and without regard to a student's race, national origin, religion, citizenship, or any other protected characteristic. Pasadena City College is committed to providing an environment in which all admitted students can pursue their studies and careers and graduate successfully;

WHEREAS: The PCC mission states that "The College is committed to providing access to higher education for members of the diverse communities within the District service area and to offering courses, programs, and other activities to enhance the economic conditions and the quality of life in these communities."

WHEREAS: A core value of PCC is "An Appreciation for Diversity," in that "We recognize that a diverse community of learners enriches our educational environment."

WHEREAS: The first prong of PCC's strategic plan is "Student Success, Equity and Access," which includes, "[working] with community partners to determine the unique needs of those individuals underrepresented in higher education and seek to develop means to increase."

WHEREAS: Each semester PCC serves over 30,000 students, including international students from over 90 different countries.

WHEREAS: PCC is a minority-serving institution that provides educational resources and resources to potentially impacted marginalized populations. Over 85% of our students are racial/ethnic minorities. 25% of our student body represents 89 countries and speaks 26 languages, indicating a culturally diverse student population.

WHEREAS: The PCC Safe Zones initiative aims "to create a safe campus community through cultural competency which is integral to a successful academic experience," and works to train "allies [who] are individuals within the PCC community who consider themselves to be knowledgeable about the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) and/or undocumented people," and is working to expand this training for the benefit of all students.<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS: PCC is located in the city of Pasadena, which in 2013, approved a legislative policy calling for "'humane and comprehensive immigration reform' protecting families, making citizenship attainable and not mandating enforcement on local police," and PCC aims to embody the ideals of its city.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Safe Zones at PCC](http://pasadena.edu), pasadena.edu.

<sup>2</sup> ["Pasadena, already a 'sanctuary city,' might increase protections for immigrants."](#) Pasadena Star-News, Dec. 2, 2016

WHEREAS: Our students are expressing heightened fear and worry for themselves, and their friends, families, and communities, and we are entering a period of chance and uncertainty in which the specific details of the impacts our communities is not yet clear only adds to the anxiety that our students are experiencing.

WHEREAS: On November 30, 2016, the Associated Students passed a Resolution in support of providing a safe environment for students in distress on our campus in direct response to this heightened fear and worry, and the faculty has an obligation to support this resolution and the student body at-large.

WHEREAS: Students on campuses across the US are looking to their faculty, staff and administrators for reassurance. As hate crimes and overt acts of racism continue to occur, many students are worried that their values and identities are coming increasingly under attack.

WHEREAS: Federal law protects student privacy rights, and the California State Constitution and other statutes provide broad privacy protections to all students, faculty, staff, and other employees of PCC;

THEREFORE, in accordance with the California Chancellor's Office guidelines and our own principles of justice and fairness, the Pasadena City College Academic Senate resolves and reaffirms the following:

- The Academic Senate resolves that Pasadena Community College will remain open to all students who meet the minimum requirements for admission, regardless of immigration status.
- The Academic Senate resolves that faculty shall treat all students equitably in the receipt of all school services for which they are eligible.
- The Academic Senate resolves that the College should not release any personally identifiable student information, including any data related to immigration status, without a judicial warrant, subpoena or court order, unless authorized by the student or required by law.
- The Academic Senate resolves that Pasadena City College should not cooperate with any federal effort to create a registry of individuals based on any protected characteristics such as religion, national origin, race, or sexual orientation.
- The Academic Senate resolves that we will continue to advocate for educational opportunities for all students in the community college system, regardless of immigration status, at the state and federal level.
- The Academic Senate resolves that any request by immigration agents for information regarding a student shall be initially denied and immediately forwarded to the President and General Counsel, who will review the denial according to the following guidelines. In keeping with the individual's right to privacy, no part of a student's education record,

however created, may be divulged with personally identifiable information to any person, organization, or agency in any manner unless there is:

1. Informed written consent by the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or otherwise by the parent or guardian;
  2. A valid court order or judicial warrant requesting such information (in such cases, prior to complying with such court order or judicial warrant, the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or otherwise the parent or guardian, shall be notified immediately in writing of the information that is the subject of the court order or judicial warrant);
  3. A health and safety emergency and disclosure of personally identifiable information from an education record to appropriate parties is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals; or
  4. Another reason to do so that is required by law. Questions concerning the validity of a court order or judicial warrant, or whether there is a health and safety emergency or other possible reasons for releasing education records that contain personally identifiable information, should be directed to the College President and General Counsel.
- The Academic Senate resolves that we will teach students to become leaders and work with faculty to give them tools that will enhance their abilities as teachers and ensure their classrooms are affirming to all students, regardless of race, sexual identity, or background.