

California State University, Sacramento Office of the Faculty Senate

6000 J Street • Sacramento Hall 254 • MS 6036 • Sacramento, CA 95819 T (916) 278-6847 • F (916) 278-5358 • www.csus.edu/academic-affairs/senate

> FS 24/25-159/EX Faculty Senate Approved May 1, 2025

Sacramento State Statement of Solidarity with the Sonoma State Community Resolution

WHEREAS, the California State University System (CSU) is made up of 23 individual campuses and each campus has a unique history and educational environment; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the CSU is to:

- To advance and extend knowledge, learning, and culture, especially throughout California.
- To provide opportunities for individuals to develop intellectually, personally, and professionally.
- To prepare significant numbers of educated, responsible people to contribute to California's schools, economy, culture, and future.
- To encourage and provide access to an excellent education to all who are prepared for and wish to participate in collegiate study.
- To offer undergraduate and graduate instruction leading to bachelor's and higher degrees in the liberal arts and sciences, the applied fields, and the professions, including the doctoral degree when authorized.
- To prepare students for international, multi-cultural society.
- To provide public services that enrich the university and its communities.

WHEREAS: The CSU system has projected substantial budget shortfalls currently and in the immediate future. CSU management has projected a significant state funding shortfall of roughly \$400 million – \$800 million for the 2025-26 academic year to the estimated operating budget of \$8.3 billion1.

WHEREAS: Given budgetary constraints and enrollment challenges, on Wednesday 22 January, Sonoma State University (SSU) Interim President Cutrer, in cooperation with the CSU Chancellor's office, eliminated 23 academic programs, closed 6 departments, merged another 7 departments, and terminated all of SSU's NCAA Division II athletic programs; and

WHEREAS: These changes are expected to precipitate substantial negative impacts on SSU students, staff, and faculty; and

WHEREAS: In late January, the Academic Senate of CSU Stanislaus passed a resolution of support for Sonoma State University; and

WHEREAS: On February 25th, 2025, the Academic Senate of CSU San Jose recently passed a resolution of support for Sonoma State University; and

WHEREAS: During the March Board of Trustees meeting, Chancellor Garcia announced a plan for a multi-university collaboration involving San Francisco State, CSU East Bay, and Sonoma State to streamline shared administrative functions and reduce operational expenses across the three universities; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of Sacramento State strongly urges Chancellor Garcia, Interim President Cutrer, and CSU leadership to pursue sustainable, long-term financial strategies that uphold academic excellence and support the well-being of the entire higher education community; and

RESOLVED: That the faculty of Sacramento State stands in full solidarity with support of the SSU community, and call upon Interim President Cutrer and Chancellor Garcia to pause proposed eliminations and terminations of academic programs and athletics at SSU that have not involved inclusive, transparent, and consensus-driven budget processes; and be it finally

RESOLVED: That this resolution be distributed to the following with request to share widely: CSU Board of Trustees, Chancellor Mildred Garcia, Academic Senate of the CSU Chair Elizabeth Boyd, California State Students Association President lese Esera, Interim SSU President Emily Cutrer, SSU Academic Senate Chair Emily Acosta Lewis, California Faculty Association