



RESOLUTION AFFIRMING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FACULTY SENATE ON MAY 10, 2023

WHEREAS the University of Houston’s stated values include diversity, inclusion, and freedom of expression through which students, staff, and faculty “embrace our differences, as we remove barriers, engage in free and open discourse, and provide resources to think critically and make us stronger”; and

WHEREAS the 1940 statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors and the University of Houston Faculty Handbook affirm the importance of academic freedom and tenure to the proper functioning of universities; and

WHEREAS Sec. 51.102. of the Texas State Education Code indicates that “the legislature finds that higher education is vitally important to the welfare, if not the survival, of Texas and the United States at this stage in history and that the quality of higher education is dependent upon the quality of college and university faculties”; and

WHEREAS the purpose of public higher education is to stimulate intellectual inquiry and promote intellectual diversity so that all students are equipped for participation in the workforce and the betterment of society and academic freedom and tenure serve the public interest when teachers and scholars are not controlled by outside interests; and

WHEREAS faculty have responsibility for the curriculum at the University of Houston and academic freedom allows professors to develop and disseminate knowledge from all viewpoints and to foster students’ critical thinking and intellectual exploration; and

WHEREAS the University of Houston has a responsibility and opportunity for fostering the exploration of history and current events, which is vital for an engaged and informed citizenry; and

WHEREAS tenure benefits colleges and universities by promoting stability because faculty members who are committed to the institution can develop ties with the local community, pursue ongoing research projects, and mentor students and beginning scholars over the long term; and

WHEREAS tenure allows Texas universities to recruit and retain top tier researchers, scholars, and instructors from across the country and the globe; and

WHEREAS the University of Houston has adopted an Enhanced Performance Evaluation policy to ensure that tenured faculty meet their long-term performance and productivity expectations set by their academic units and the University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Houston affirms that faculty have academic freedom on matters related to the curriculum and scholarship, including social justice, and will stand firm to protect the values of diversity, inclusion, and freedom of expression.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate reaffirms the provision of tenure in all public institutions of higher education in the state of Texas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current Faculty Senate body affirms the [resolution on academic freedom](#) passed by a previous Faculty Senate Executive Committee on February 25, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate affirms the [Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism](#), authored by the AAUP, PEN America, the American Historical Association, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, endorsed by over seventy organizations, and issued on June 16, 2021.

HOUSTON'S CARNEGIE DESIGNATED TIER ONE PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

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