

Faculty Senate

University of Houston  Clear Lake

Resolution adopted by the Faculty Senate of the University of Houston Clear Lake

WHEREAS the importance of academic freedom as noted in the [1940 statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors](#) constitutes a foundational pillar of UHCL's research and educational mission, and

WHEREAS under principles of academic freedom, faculty are empowered to conduct their research, explore novel concepts, and teach their particular subject following the professional standards set by their disciplines, where decisions about curriculum and subject matter should rest on the faculty who have expertise without influence from outside political entities; and

WHEREAS a diversity of views and an atmosphere of respectful and civil discussion on potentially sensitive subjects including race and discrimination in America is the bedrock of a university classroom; and

WHEREAS the recent statements of Texas state officials opposed to tenure and teaching about issues of race in the classroom are detrimental to the reputation of higher education as a whole and Texas institutions in particular and have important implications in a variety of domains including the hiring and retaining of top faculty and students and the attainment of the goals of the UHCL Strategic Plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Houston-Clear Lake emphatically rejects and condemns any attempt by any person or body external to the faculty to censor, restrain, or dictate the curriculum on any matter whatsoever, including matters of race, gender, or social justice, and will stand firm against any and all encroachments of academic freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the stance of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, American Association of University Professors, and scores of [other higher education organizations](#), including several [institutions](#) in the state of Texas, that faculty should make the decisions about scholarship and teaching.