The Academic Senate expresses its support for the tenet that UC campuses should aspire to civil discourse, so long as this tenet is not allowed to operate in practice as a restraint on academic freedom. While the Academic Senate urges that discourse in any context, in or outside the classroom, be respectful of individuals whose viewpoints one may not agree with, the Senate strongly endorses the preeminence of the value of academic freedom.

Academic freedom includes the right of members of the university community to express their views, even in passionate terms, on matters of public importance. That right is a necessary part of what the U.S. Supreme Court has called our “profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open.”