

## **Resolution Against the Proposed Policy on Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct**

(This resolution was unanimously adopted by the DSC at its November 18 2016 Plenary)

Whereas, the administration at CUNY Central continues to work on a CUNY-wide proposed policy on 'Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct' proposed earlier this year; and

**Plenary**

Executive Committee

Whereas, the proposed policy advocates for policing and prohibiting what is alternately called "expressive conduct" or "expressive activity" by placing restrictions on time, manner and place for such conduct; and

Steering Committee

Whereas, the proposed policy will curtail the ability of students, faculty, and staff to disseminate information, gather in shared CUNY spaces, engage in peaceful protest, and participate meaningfully in their campus life; and

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Whereas, the proposed policy will have deleterious and dangerous effects on CUNY students of color, working class populations, queer communities, and women, because of its insistence on further policing student activism by involving "external law enforcement authorities" (section 2.3 in the current version of the proposed policy); and

Health & Wellness

Outreach

Student Services

Whereas, the motivation behind this proposed policy reproduces the racism that students of color face when organizing for a better university; and

USS Advisory Committee

Advocate Advisory Board

Whereas, similar proposed policies have met with resistance and widespread criticism from CUNY students, faculty and staff, which resulted in tabling those proposals twice - once in Fall 2013 and once in Summer 2016; and

OpenCUNY Board

Governance Task Force

Whereas the Doctoral Students' Council unanimously adopted a resolution in support of CUNY student activism on Sept 27, 2013; and

EDLAB

Whereas, the Doctoral Students' Council believes that free speech and the right to assembly without interference are inalienable human rights; and

Student Tech Fee

Whereas, the proposed policy will actually undermine freedom of expression and free speech at CUNY, instead of protecting and expanding it.

It is resolved that, the currently proposed policy on 'Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct' is an assault on the inalienable rights to free speech and assembly that CUNY students (who are predominantly of color, and working-class) should enjoy; and

It is finally resolved that, the Doctoral Students' Council condemns any iteration or version of the proposed policy on 'Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct' and calls on the Board of Trustees to withdraw it from any future consideration, and vote no if it comes before the full Board of Trustees.