

Resolution Against Changes to the Henderson Rules

Adopted by the DSC on February 21, 2020

WHEREAS, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (DSC) represents and advocates for over 3,500 local and international doctoral and masters' students of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in their roles as students, teachers, workers, family members, New Yorkers, activists, and academics; and

WHEREAS, the DSC shares CUNY's historic mission of providing access to higher education to low-income communities and communities of color in New York City, across the nation and (in the case of visiting international students) the world; and

WHEREAS, free speech and the right to assemble are inalienable human rights; and

WHEREAS, the DSC upholds the rights of students to make known their concerns through protest, demonstrations and other forms of public display; and

WHEREAS, on September 27th, 2013, the DSC adopted a Resolution in Support of CUNY Student Activism, which demanded that CUNY students be afforded the right to free speech and assembly without fear of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, on November 18th, 2016, the DSC adopted a Resolution Against the Proposed Policy on Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct, which declared that policy to be an assault on students' rights to free speech and assembly policy, and condemned any future iterations of such a policy; and

WHEREAS, the CUNY Office of Legal Affairs has proposed a revised Student Code of Conduct that includes changes to the Henderson Rules, whereby basic rights of CUNY students for free assembly and protest are infringed; and

WHEREAS, the DSC views the proposed changes as counter to New York Law and thus impossible to enforce according to the powers vested in CUNY; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that the Doctoral & Graduate Students' Council hereby expressly rejects the proposed revised CUNY Student Code of Conduct; and let it be

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DSC urges the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez to ensure that no policies that undermine the aforementioned inalienable rights of CUNY students are implemented.