

Dear Academic Senate Colleagues,

We write as authors of the “Senate Resolution on Administrative Authorization and Justification of Police Violence Against Non-Violent Campus Protestors” that triggered the call for a special meeting of the Academic Senate on Monday, November 28, 2011.

We formulated this resolution in the immediate aftermath of police violence against UC protestors on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Since that time, we have learned that our resolution is being misconstrued in two important ways. First, some have misread the resolution as unqualifiedly defending the Occupy Cal encampment and as arguing that students have the right to pitch tents on campus whenever and wherever they like. Second, some have misread the resolution as proposing a blanket “no-confidence” vote on three administrators, effectively soliciting their resignations.

Neither of these positions or effects was our intention. Rather, we are concerned about a pattern of violent police responses to non-violent protests (three instances in two years) on our campus, and we are calling on the Senate to bring such responses to an immediate end.

On the first matter, let us simply clarify: The resolution has no position on when and whether tents and encampments may be permitted on campus but does maintain that tents are non-violent.

On the second matter, we have chosen to exercise our authorial prerogative to amend the proposed resolution. The “Whereas” clauses remain unchanged but we have revised the “Resolved” clause as follows:

*Therefore be it resolved that the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate:*

- 1. Opposes all violent police responses to non-violent protest, whether that protest is lawful or not.*
- 2. Condemns the UC Berkeley administration’s authorization of violent responses to non-violent protests over the past two years.*
- 3. Demands that Chancellor Birgeneau, Executive Vice Chancellor Breslauer, and Vice Chancellor LeGrande take responsibility for and repudiate such policing as it occurred over the past two years.*
- 4. Demands that these administrators develop, follow and enforce university policy to respond non-violently to non-violent protests, to secure student welfare amidst these protests, and to minimize the deployment of force and foster free expression and assembly on campus.*

The full resolution, revised, is attached to this email.

We look forward to a civil, thoughtful and productive discussion on Monday.

Very best,

Wendy Brown  
Judith Butler  
Barrie Thorne