

ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

Resolution of Non-Confidence

WHEREAS: [On Sunday, May 1, 2022](#) Professor and Academic Senator Melina Abdullah was bodily lifted by four campus police officers and forcefully removed from the Los Angeles mayoral debate hosted on Cal State LA's campus, and

WHEREAS: Such treatment was grotesquely disproportionate with any alleged wrong-doing; and

WHEREAS: Such treatment exemplifies a pattern of anti-Black policing practices both on this campus and in the United States more generally; and

WHEREAS: The degrading nature of the treatment exemplifies sexual and sexualized violence against Black women specifically; and

WHEREAS: The [initial press release](#) from Cal State State LA as well as the subsequent message to the Senate from the President demonstrated a stunning obliviousness to the significance of the treatment of Dr. Abdullah in this country and the possible effect it might have on Black members of the Cal State LA community and the Black community more generally; and

WHEREAS: Both the treatment of Dr. Abdullah and the subsequent responses abandoned the [University's core value](#) of mutual respect and expectation of cultural competence, and

WHEREAS: Both the treatment of Dr. Abdullah and the subsequent responses exemplify the exact opposite of the concept of Inclusion as defined in the [Guiding Principles of Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Belonging](#) as approved by the Academic Senate on April 5, 2022: "The action of creating space for the voices and perspectives of those that have been traditionally/historically marginalized"; and

WHEREAS: The [President's Message to the Senate](#)¹ on May 4th includes a refusal to take ultimate responsibility for the incident thereby constituting a failure to lead;

WHEREAS: This failure exemplifies a continuing pattern of a failure to lead in accordance with Cal State LA's values - including mutual respect, the expectation of cultural competence, as well as the value of shared governance;

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Los Angeles has lost confidence in President William A Covino's ability to lead our campus as President; and be it further;

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Los Angeles calls upon President Covino to step down as President of Cal State LA; and be it further

¹ See paragraph 4 with the entire text of the email quoted.

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Los Angeles calls upon President Covino to apologize to Dr. Abdullah personally for the incident and to issue a formal apology to all Black members of the Cal State LA community for his gross insensitivity to the experiences of Black people in this country; and be it further.

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Los Angeles urges the State of California Legislature, The CSU Board of Trustees, and the CSU Chancellor's Office to conduct a thorough review of all policing expenditures, presence, and practices at Cal State LA and within the CSU system as a whole; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to the Cal State LA President William A. Covino, Cal State LA VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Octavio Villalpando, the CSU Chancellor's Office, the CSU Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate of the CSU, the California Faculty Association Statewide President, the California Faculty Association Cal State LA Chapter President, the Legislature of the State of California, and the Chairs of the CSU Academic Senates.

Approved by the California State University, Los Angeles Academic Senate:
May 10, 2022